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*Engraved by J. Smith.*

*QUEEN'S CROSS,*  
*near Northampton.*

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
NORTHAMPTON,  
AND ITS  
VICINITY;

BROUGHT DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME.


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EMBELLISHED WITH  
*A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF QUEEN'S CROSS.*

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Northampton :

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## NORTHAMPTON.

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**N**ORTHAMPTON is situate on a gentle ascent from the northern bank of the river *Nyne* or *Nen*, supposed to have been antiently called *Aufona*, or *Avon*; and from this situation it is supposed to have derived its name. In what age, or by whom Northampton was built, it is almost impossible to determine. It has been stated that Belinus, a British king, was the founder; but for the fact there is no certain authority. It is, however, a presumptive proof, that there was a town or settlement in the time of the Britons, as, on the division of the kingdom into shires or counties, the town was of sufficient importance to give its name to the county.

In the reign of Edward the elder it was in the possession of the Danes.

In the year 1010, it was almost ruined by the fury of the Danish troops, who, in their ravages throughout the kingdom, broke into these parts, burnt Northampton, and nearly depopulated the adjacent country.

In 1064, Tosti, who had the government of the Northumbrians, was, for his tyranny and oppression, expelled the province, and Morcar was elected their Earl. Marching southwards in a body they advanced to Northampton, where Harold met them with an army, having been sent by the king to vindicate the royal authority, and do justice to Tosti. But finding, on their representations, that they had equity on their side, he deemed it more adviseable to withdraw his forces, and assist their deputies in confirming Morcar in the government. During these transactions they committed great outrages in the town and neighbourhood, killing the inhabitants, burning their houses and corn, and carrying away many thousands of cattle, and several hundred prisoners. Its recovery from these calamities was very slow, as at the time of the general survey many of the houses were uninhabited; and Simon de St. Liz, who in the Conqueror's reign built the castle, re-edified the town.

From this period, improving in elegance and

strength, it was frequently honoured with the presence of our kings, and several Parliaments were held here.

In 1106, according to the Saxon annals, Robert, Duke of Normandy had here an interview with Henry I. his brother; who, in the twenty-third year of his reign, with his whole court, kept the festival of Easter, at Northampton, in all the state and splendour with which those solemnities were at that period celebrated. In 1138 a council was held here, by king Stephen, at which were present all the bishops, abbots, and barons of the realm, and several promotions were made in the church. Henry III. in the second year of his reign, kept the festival of Christmas at Northampton.

In the twentieth year of this reign the king's mandate was sent to the bailiffs of the town, ordering them to see that the fair, which had been usually kept in All Saints church and church yard, should be removed, and for the future held in some open place. This fair, which, in honour of the churches dedication, was kept upon All Saints day, was of very antient standing, and probably had its rise before the conquest. About the forty-eighth year of this reign there was a kind of university or settlement for students who had left Oxford.

In the seventh year of Edward I. the Jews who lived at Northampton crucified, on Good Friday, a christian boy, but who fortunately survived their cruelty. For this atrocious attempt, already odious, they became still more detestable in the eyes of the nation; and after Easter, many of them in London, were put to an ignominious death.

King Edward, in August, resided here some days. During his stay in the town, the friars of the different orders were entertained three days successively, at the king's expense. In the twenty-ninth year of his reign Edward I. and Margaret his queen kept their Christmas here.

Soon after the death of Edward I. in 1307, a Parliament was held at Northampton, in October, to consider of the late king's funeral, the coronation, and marriage of the prince, his successor, and the state of the nation.

In the fourth year of Richard II. a Parliament, and the last which was ever summoned to meet at Northampton, assembled about the 5th of November. The Parliament, with the convocation of the province of Canterbury, sat in the chancel of All Saints church; and it is supposed that the preceding Parliaments, which were held here, assembled in the same place.

The next memorable event that occurred at Northampton, was the battle fought without the town, in the thirty-eighth year of Henry VI. The king was at Coventry, when the account was brought him that the Earl of Warwick and the confederate Lords were landed in Kent. Upon receiving this intelligence he proceeded with his forces to Northampton, and lodged in the convent of the Grey Friars. The army, having passed the Nyne, was very advantageously posted in the meadows, with the river in their rear, the monastery of Delapre on their right, and strong intrenchments in front. On the 9th of July, early in the morning, the confederate army was perceived advancing in three divisions, under the Earls of March and Warwick, and Lord Falconberg. Before an engagement was hazarded, it was agreed to propose terms of accommodation; but the Earls applying to the Duke of Buckingham, were refused admission to the King's presence, and the proposals they offered were rejected with disdain. The following day about noon the battle began; the intrenchments were forced with little difficulty, and the confederates gained the victory; the royalists were totally routed, and ten thousand prisoners taken. During the action Edmund, Lord Grey of Ruthin, who commanded Henry's vanguard, came

over to the Earls' party, and by his revolt principally contributed to their success. Previous to the charge orders were given to the Earls' soldiers to spare the private men, and direct their arms against the Lords, Knights, and Esquires. A great number of the King's forces were drowned in the river, and several thousands left dead upon the field. Among the killed were the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Shrewsbury, John Viscount Beaumont, and Lord Egremont, who lost their lives fighting near the King's tent. The Duke of Buckingham was buried in the church of the Grey Friars, and many others at St. John's hospital within the town. When the battle was over, the Earls in a respectful manner waited on Henry, who had continued the whole time in his tent, and attended him into Northampton. On his entry he was received in procession, and in a few days after was taken to London.

In the ninth year of Edward IV. a commotion was raised in Yorkshire, and the insurgents, headed by Sir H. Nevil and Sir J. Coniers, advanced as far as Edgcot, in this county. The Earls of Pembroke and Stafford were sent by the King's orders to suppress them; the former of whom was routed and slain. The insurgents then advanced to Grafton, where they took prisoners Richard, Earl Rivers, and

John his son, whom they afterwards beheaded at Northampton.

From this period no transaction of importance occurred, until the year 1563, when Queen Elizabeth, on her progress through the country, came to Northampton. Great preparations were made for her reception, the town gates being painted, and the houses elegantly ornamented; and, on her departure, she was presented by the magistrates with twenty pounds, in a purse valued at six pounds. A similar compliment was paid in 1634 to Charles I. and his Queen, who on passing through the town had given them, by the Mayor and Corporation, two bowls of silver, gilt, of the price of one hundred marks.

In 1637 the town was visited with the plague, of which nearly five hundred persons died in about five months. During this calamity the market was held upon the heath, to which none of the inhabitants were permitted to go without a certificate from the mayor.

In 1642 Northampton was seized by the forces under the command of Lord Brooke, fortified with cannon, and made a garrison for the service of the Parliament. For the greater security of the town the South and West bridges were converted into

draw-bridges, several houses in St. Edmund's End were pulled down to prevent a lodgment of the enemy, and additional works were thrown up in the most defenceless places.

At what period Northampton was first inclosed with a wall, it cannot be accurately ascertained. It is supposed that the walls were raised by Simon de St. Liz the elder, when he built the castle and repaired the town. In the sixth year of Edward I. it appears they were embattled, and at different places had steps to ascend them ; the inhabitants, as stated in the record, when infirm or indisposed, being accustomed to take the air upon the walls, or in the winter season to pass by these means from one part of the town to another ; they were broad enough for six persons to walk abreast. There were also four gates to the town, which, from their situation, were named the South, East, North, and West gates. Over the South, West, and North were chambers, inhabited by poor people ; the East gate, much the best of the four, was large and high, embellished with shields of arms, and other ornaments of stonework. Immediately without the South gate stood St. Thomas's Hospital ; and to the South of the East gate was a smaller gate called the Dern-gate, on the road leading to the river.

A little without the west gate stood the castle, upon very high ground, overlooking the meadows, St. James's abbey, and the country about Duston. On the western side of it run that branch of the Nyne which came from Naseby ; on the other sides it was encompassed with a deep trench. The keep was large, and bulwarks of earth were raised before the gate. It was built by Simon de St. Liz, the first of that name Earl of Northampton, in the reign of the Conqueror ; but no mention being made of it in Domesday book, it appears not to have been completed till after that survey was taken. In Henry the Second's reign it was possessed by the crown ; but in the civil war of 1264, between Henry the Third and his nobles, it was occupied by the confederate barons, under the Earl of Leicester, whose son, Simon de Montford, was governor. The King having received considerable reinforcements besieged the castle with great vigour ; but the situation and strength of the fortress, with the undaunted courage of the garrison, baffled all the efforts of the royal troops, and convinced them that force was totally inadequate to their arduous enterprize. At length recourse was had to the following stratagem, which effectually served their purpose. While the barons were engaged in a parley, under pretence of a nego-

ciation, a chosen body of the royal forces was dispatched to make a breach in the walls at the opposite extremity of the town. The plan succeeded ; and the garrison, thus taken by surprise, were, after displaying the greatest courage, completely defeated, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Within the castle was a royal free chapel, dedicated to St. George. Before the year 1675 the castle was used as the county gaol ; part of a round bastion on the south side, formerly the prison, and now called *the Castle Ring*, is still standing. Part also of a bastion on the east, and another on the west, were pulled down a few years ago. Here likewise were kept the two courts of justice, at some distance from each other ; the *Nisi prius* court joining the west end, or entrance of the chapel. The ground inclosed within the walls is about three acres. In 1662, pursuant to an order of the king and privy council, the walls and gates, and part of the castle were demolished. It appears indeed from the account given by Norden, who lived in 1593, that the castle was even at that time much decayed, and the walls in a defenceless state. “ This towne,” says he, “ is a faire towne, “ with many faire old buildings, large streets, and a “ very ample and faire markt-place ; it is walled “ about with a wall of stone, but meane too of

“ strength ; neare unto the towne there standeth an  
“ eminent castle ruynous.”

In the year 1535 a market-cross was erected on the market-hill, and burnt down in 1675. It was of an octagonal form, consisting of eight large wood pillars, ornamented with carved work, and resting upon a stone pedestal, at the height of two feet from the ground ; from each pillar was turned an arch of wood as a support to the roof ; in the middle were three circular steps of stone, from whence a small pair of stairs led up into a lanthorn or chamber, in which was kept the standard bushel, and other utensils belonging to the market. The whole building was covered with lead and embattled, and on the several squares were plates of lead, wrought with figures and gilt, and upon the top of each was an ape holding an iron rod with a vane. A few years before the erection of this cross, the square was paved for the conveniency of holding the market. In earlier times it was held in the place called the Mayor-hold, or perhaps more truly the Market-hold. Since that period an obelisk has been erected, which becoming a nuisance, it was removed, and a handsome pump now occupies its place. On the south of the market-place is the old conduit, built in 1478, and supplied with water, brought to it in pipes, from

the spring called the conduit head, in a field on the east of the town. Over this conduit was formerly a hall, in which the several trades, who had constitutions or companies, used to meet, for regulating offences committed to the injury of their business, and against their respective constitutions.

On the 6th of May, 1663, Northampton and its neighbourhood were visited with a most dreadful storm of thunder and rain, which occasioned an extraordinary flood, much higher than was ever known before; it is recorded by the name of the *May flood*. Many houses and walls were washed down by the water, which flowed into the town as far as St. John's hospital. It burst the west bridge, and forced away the two chief arches of the South bridge; upon the repairing of which the two arches were converted into a large one.

In 1675 Northampton was almost consumed by a dreadful fire, which laid the greatest part of the town in ashes, as most of the houses at that time were composed of timber, and which seems to have been the principal cause of so wide and rapid a devastation.

The following account of this dreadful and distressing calamity has been copied from an ancient manuscript:—

“ On the 20th of September, 1675, hundreds of inhabitants of Northampton were driven out of their houses, upon little or no warning, by a most sudden and terrible fire. The notice was so short as not to give many of them time to remove any part of their goods, not even a bed to lie on, or a garment to shift themselves with.—The unhappy instrument of this misfortune was an infamous and common woman of the town, who then lived at the end of St. Mary’s street, near the castle, and having something boiling in a pot on the fire, left it carelessly while she went to a neighbour’s; and on her return found the house in flames. It was then about half past eleven o’clock in the forenoon, when a strong west wind arose, and blew the flames to the rest of the houses in that street, which were chiefly poor thatched buildings. From thence it communicated to the back of Horse-market, and soon spread to the south and lower end of the same; from whence it flew, swifter than horse or man, to Derngate, nearly half a mile from the place where it began. From Derngate it soon spread into St. Giles’s-street, and consumed every house therein except one, which was formerly a gate-house, and the end walls being higher than the roof, it was by that means preserved. It then fled over the town and seized upon College-lane; great

quantities of oil, tallow, and other combustible matter being deposited in this part, caused it to burn with greater fury than ever, and it soon communicated with the back part of the Drapery.—The spacious Market-hill was covered with all sorts of wares and goods, which the affrighted owners were forced to leave one among another, where they were enclosed by a wall of fire, and only one little door left them to escape out at, by Mr. Danvers's house (at this time in the possession of Mr. Freake) which was the only house that remained in the square.—Great quantities of goods were spoiled and consumed, and the flames spared neither cross nor pump.—It is impossible to describe the distractions of the helpless people, such as old men and women, children and infants, as well as great numbers of the inhabitants who were ill of the small-pox, which were at the time very prevalent in the place.—By two o'clock the fire was in all parts of the town, so that the inhabitants were entirely driven from their dwellings; and in less than two hours more, upwards of six hundred houses were consumed, wherein dwelt above seven hundred families. The damage amounted to £102,008 and upwards, besides the loss of the parish church of All Saints, and many other public buildings, to the value of fifty thousand

pounds more.—It is extraordinary (says the writer) that a fire should break out at noon-day, and get so much strength in such a short time, as to consume so many goods and houses, and a wonderful mercy that only eleven persons perished in the flames, when it is considered with what an amazing force the fire and wind came on in some of the narrow passages—that many people were quite spent and wearied—their eyes dazzled, or blinded with dust and smoke—and that several houses fell down while they were running by for their lives : and here a most singular circumstance occurred ; a man, who lived with an apothecary, brought out of a cellar, a barrel of gunpowder, which he carried under his arm, up Gold-street, whilst it was burning on both sides, covering it only with his coat skirts, and, wonderful to relate, carried it off in safety.”

For re-building the town, an act of Parliament was immediately afterwards procured by the Earl of Northampton, the recorder, appointing commissioners to decide all differences which might arise with respect to the soil, the adjusting of party walls, &c. About £25,000 were raised by subscriptions and briefs, for the relief of the sufferers ; and the king gave one thousand tons of timber, and seven years' chimney money collected within the town.

Northampton is both a town incorporate and a borough. It was first incorporated by Henry II. and since confirmed by several successive charters, under different reigns, in which the style of the corporation has been often changed, and the privileges very much enlarged. In the thirty-first year of Henry II. the burgesses of Northampton gave a fine of two hundred marks to hold the said town of the king *in capite*. By a charter granted in the first year of king John, the burgesses of Northampton were freed from all toll throughout England and the sea-ports, with the privilege of not being impleaded out of the town, and of enjoying every other liberty in the same manner as the citizens of London, paying into the exchequer £120 at Michaelmas in every year. By this charter they were empowered to choose annually two bailiffs to be presented to the chief justice at Westminster, and to appoint four other inhabitants to determine all pleas of the crown, and to see that the bailiffs were careful to discharge their duty. These liberties were again enlarged and confirmed in the forty-first year of Henry III. and again renewed in the twenty-seventh of Edward I. a privilege having been granted by king Henry of choosing yearly a mayor and two bailiffs, at the feast of St. Michael, the mayor to be presented and

sworn before the barons of the exchequer, within eight days after the said feast. In 1478 the mayor was for the first time sworn into his office at Northampton, as have been all his successors since that period. By charter granted in the fourth year of Henry VII, the mayor and his brethren late mayors, are to name and choose forty-eight persons of the inhabitants, and to change them as often as they should think necessary ; which forty-eight persons, together with the mayor and his brethren, and such as have been mayors and bailiffs, should hereafter yearly elect all the mayors and bailiffs of the said town. Before this period the mayor and bailiffs were elected by all the freemen in St. Giles's church-yard, but the election was often attended with tumults and quarrels. In the ninth year of the same reign the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses obtained the liberty of choosing a recorder, and appointing two burgesses, who, together with the mayor, should be justices of the peace within the town. By charter, bearing date 3d August, 15 Car. II, the government of Northampton was committed to the mayor and two bailiffs, and such as have been mayors and bailiffs, and a common council of forty-eight burgesses, called the company of forty-eight ; and of these, together with the recorder, chamberlain, and

town-clerk, the corporation now consists. In 1688 this charter was surrendered, and a new one issued, dated 20th September, 35 Car. II, appointing only forty burgesses, and reserving to the crown a power of placing or displacing the members at pleasure; but this surrender being never enrolled, the new charter, in the opinion of Sir Edward Northey, the Attorney General, was conceived to be void; and the corporation continued to act by virtue of their former one. On the 2d of April, 1796, the present charter was obtained. It was brought from London by the mayor, Mr. Thomas Hall, who, with the bailiffs, Mr. G. Osborn and Mr. S. Holt, and other members of the corporation, were met at the entrance of the town by the principal part of the inhabitants, and conducted with great ceremony to the town-hall, amidst the congratulations of the townspeople, on the re-establishment of their former privileges.

Those who have served the office of mayor are called Aldermen. The mayor for the time being, the mayor for the preceding year, together with three of the aldermen who are to be chosen annually, act as justices of the peace within the town for that year. The recorder and town-clerk are usually continued for life, but are re-chosen every year, and at their first appointment must be

approved by the king. The mayor, and recorder, or his deputy, and one other of the justices are necessary to make a sessions ; in criminal causes they have power to try all offenders, but generally confine their jurisdiction to petty larcenys. Once in three weeks, or oftener, the mayor and bailiffs hold a court of record, in which an action may be pleaded without limitation for any sum. All fines imposed on burgesses before the judges of assize and justices of the county, and all goods and chattels of felons found within the town, and forfeitures of recognizances taken before the mayor are applied to the use of the corporation. The mayor and bailiffs are elected on some day between the first and eleventh of August, and are sworn into their offices upon Michaelmas-day ; the chamberlain is annually chosen by the mayor and aldermen. All assemblies for public business are held in the Guildhall of the town.

Northampton, as a borough, returns two members to parliament ; and is one of the earliest boroughs which enjoyed that honour. In the parliament which was held at Acton-Burnel, in the twelfth year of Edward I, it was one of the nineteen trading towns which sent two representatives to attend the meeting. The same number has attended the parlia-

ments since that period. The electors are every inhabitant who has been a housekeeper six months, paying scot and lot. The writ is directed to the mayor and bailiffs, who are the returning officers.—The present members are the Right Hon. Earl Compton, of Castle-Ashby, and William Hanbury, Esq. of Kelmarsh.

Northampton, from about the time of the conquest, has given title to an earldom; but in the year 1812 the present earl was created a marquis.

There are ten fairs kept here in the year, viz. upon the 20th of February; the 5th of April; the 4th of May; the 19th of June; the 5th and 26th of August; the 19th of September, for cheese; the first Thursday in November, toll-free; the 28th of November; and the 19th of December.—The weekly market on Saturday.

Within the walls of Northampton were formerly seven parish churches; viz. All Saints, St. Giles's, St. Gregory's, St. Mary's, St. Michael's, St. Peter's, and Sepulchre's. There were besides these in the town, St. Catherine's, a chapel of ease to All Saints; St. Edmund's church, without the east gate; and St. Bartholomew's, without the north gate: but the only four remaning at the present time are All Saints, St. Giles's, St. Peter's, and Sepulchre's.

The church dedicated to All Saints, is situate about the middle of the town ; it was begun to be re-built after the fire of 1675, in the reign of King Charles II, and completed in the reign of Queen Anne. It consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. In the midst is a cupola, likewise covered with lead, and supported within by pillars of the Ionic order. The cupola is supposed to have been built from a model of that of the Pantheon at Rome. At the west end is a square tower, which fortunately escaped the fire, in which are eight bells, and on the top of the tower is a small turrit. In 1809 the corporation gave a set of new chimes to this church, which were executed in such a manner as to reflect great credit on the maker, Mr. Briant, of Hertford.

The church is divided from the chancel by a neat screen of Norway oak. The roof is supported by four arches, and adorned with fretwork. On the north side is a gallery, built in the year 1714: the pulpit is of most admirable workmanship, finely carved with wreaths of flowers and other ornaments. Round the top are eight large eagles, fastened by rings, which they appear to be eagerly biting ; this is well executed, and has a very striking effect. At the west end of the

church is a large elegant organ, lately built. The walls of the chancel are lined with Norway oak, and the seats made of the same. Near the altar are two fine paintings of Moses and Aaron. Aaron is superbly habited in the dress of the High Priest, having a censer in his left hand, and his right stretched out to receive the law from Moses. They are supposed to have been executed by Sir Godfrey Kneller. In the body of the church, opposite to the pulpit, is a large pew for the mayor and aldermen. Over the mayor's seat are the town arms, and under them the following inscription : ANNO MAJORATUS II<sup>o</sup>. RICARDI WHITE, ANNO DOM. 1680. Round the font, which is of white marble, and placed upon a stone pedestal, is as follows : Donum Thomæ Willoughby Armigeri Ecclesiæ Omnium Sanctorum Northon. Without side the church at the west end is a fine lofty portico, four and twenty feet in length, supported by twelve pillars of the Ionic order, and ballustraded at the top. Along the ballustrade are a number of urns ; and in the middle of which is a statue of King Charles II. standing on a pedestal, with this inscription under it, CAROLVS II<sup>ds</sup> REX MDCXCII. Under this are the arms of England, with the following inscription on the freeze below : *This statue was erected in memory*

*of K. Charles II, who gave a thousand ton of timber towards the rebuilding of this church, and to this town seven years chimney money collected in it. John Augutter Mayor. 1712.*

This church is built upon the site of the chancel of the old church, ten feet being taken out of the church yard at the east end to add to the present chancel. The old church extended as far as the west wall of the church-yard, which stands upon the foundation of it. It consisted of a body and two aisles, the body being very lofty ; the chancel was large with stalls and desks on each side ; the windows of both the church and chancel were richly ornamented with coats of arms. On the south side of the church was a large porch, with a room over it, in which was held the spiritual court ; and where the chancel now stands there was formerly a library. After the dissolution of the monastries at Northampton, the right of presentation was for some time in the hands of the crown ; but it now belongs to those members of the corporation who are inhabitants of the parish.

There are in the church several very neat monuments ;—in the north aisle is one on plain white marble, with the following inscription :—\*

\* See Hervey's Meditations.

*"Be ye not slothful, but followers of Them, who through Faith  
and Patience inherit the Promises."* Heb. vi. 12.

~~~~~  
In Memory of ANN STONHOUSE,  
A sincere CHRISTIAN.

How lov'd, how valu'd once, avails Thee not  
To whom related, or by whom begot;  
A heap of Dust alone remains of Thee :  
'Tis all Thon art!---and all the Proud shall be!

She died a few Days after the Birth of her 4th Child,  
Dec. 1st, 1747, in the 25th Year of her Age.

*Life how short!* ~~~~~ *Eternity how long!*

Sacred  
to the Memory  
of her affectionate Husband  
Sir JAMES STONHOUSE, Bart.  
Doctor of Physic;  
The projector, friend, and physician  
of the county Infirmary,  
established in the year 1743:  
where the lame walk, and the sick are healed.  
Afterwards  
He was for many years  
rector of Great and Little Cheverel, WILTSHIRE,  
and exemplary as a Minister.  
But in that immortal state  
on which he is now entered,  
how dim is human excellence.

READER,

It is his superior honour at this period  
that he was partaker with HER  
in the CHRISTIAN character,  
with whom he was united  
in the CONJUGAL relation.  
He died on the 8th day of December,  
1795,  
in the 80th year of his age.

Under the portico, near the south door, is a plain tablet of white marble, recording a most dreadful calamity occasioned by a fire, which broke out at a public house on the Market-hill (now known by the sign of the Phoenix); and although that was the only house destroyed, not less than eight lives were lost, the landlord being the only person in the house that escaped the flames :

This Marble was  
erected to perpetuate the  
Memory of the following awful  
Dispensation of Providence ;

At one o'clock in the Morning of the 17th February, 1792,  
the lower part of the House of H. MARRIOT,  
on the Market-Hill, was discovered to be on Fire,  
and the flames ascending with dreadful rapidity,  
he was obliged to leave his affrighted *little ones*, hovering  
round their distracted Mother, and by an extraordinary  
effort gained the roof of an adjoining house, calling aloud  
for that help, which alas! could not be procured, for in a few  
moments his whole family, consisting of a *beloved Wife*,  
5 Children, and 2 Lodgers, perished in the flames!

READER,

If the Almighty has hitherto preserved thee from such scenes  
of deep distress, let thy Heart glow with Gratitude, and  
at the same time let thy Bosom expand with  
Benevolence towards thy suffering  
Fellow Creatures.

The sad Remains of this unfortunate Family  
were carefully collected, and  
decently interred in this  
Church-Yard.

Upon a small stone near the north door is recorded a most wonderful instance of longevity, and strength of mind and body, viz.

Here under lieth

JOHN BAILES, born in this

Town, he was above 126

years old, and had his hearing,  
sight, and memory to the last.

He lived in three Centurys,  
and was buried the 14th of April,  
1706.

A subscription was a short time since entered into for the erection of a monument to the memory of the late Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, member for the town, when upwards of two thousand pounds were subscribed.—It is now in a state of forwardness at one of the first houses in London, and will, when finished be erected in the chancel of All Saints church.

At the east end of the town is the parish church of St. Giles.—This is a very handsome modern building, consisting of a body, north and south aisle, and chancel, with a cross aisle from north to south, all leaded. In the middle between the church and chancel, is a neat square embattled tower, in which are eight bells, supposed to be equal, if not superior, in harmony, to any in this part of the kingdom. The length of the church and chancel is one hundred

and sixteen feet ; the breadth of the body and aisles about fifty seven feet, and the length of the cross aisle about sixty-four feet. The chancel was neatly wainscoted a few years ago, at the expense of Dr. Grey, a physician, and contains, at the present time, a number of very neat handsome monuments. Against the east wall of the south cross aisle is an altar monument, covered with marble, with four angels holding each a shield at the feet and north side, and between each angel a woman sitting on a tomb. Round the verge was an inscription in brass, now torn off. This monument is supposed to have been erected for one of the Gobion family. The register of this church began in 1585 ; and was given to the priory of St. Andrew, in Northampton, by Simon de St. Liz, the founder. Within this church was a chapel dedicated to St. Peter, and a fraternity in honour of St. Clement.—By a deed, dated the 20th March, 1619, William Andrew, of Denton, alias Dodington-Parva, Gent. granted an annuity of £3 per annum, for ever, out of a meadow called the Patches, in the parish of Weston-Underwood, in Buckinghamshire, for the more decent burial of poor executed prisoners, in the church-yard of this parish.

At the western extremity of the town, near the outer fortifications of the castle, stands the church

dedicated to St. Peter.—It is supposed to have been connected with the castle, and most probably erected by one of the Norman Lords ; but of this event there is no memorial preserved.—This is a very antient building, and consists of a nave and two aisles of equal length, with a square embattled tower at the west end, in which are eight very fine bells. The nave is separated from the aisles by eight semi-circular arches, and supported by seven columns, three of which are composed of four semi-columns, and the other four have only single shafts. The centre of the last is ornamented with a band of three mouldings, and all the capitals are decorated with sculptured scroll-work, foliage, &c. All the arches have zig-zag indentations round them, and above these are six small windows ; but the most curious part of the interior of this singular building is the great archway beneath the tower, at the west-end of the nave : it consists of three receding arches, each charged, both in elevation and soffit, with zig-zag mouldings, &c.—Some of the pillars are of the Ionic and the others of the Tuscan order. The length of the church and chancel is about seventy-nine feet, and the breadth of the body and aisles about thirty-four feet. The exterior of the church and tower is equally curious, though the architectural and

sculptural decorations are not so numerous. Over the western door is a blank arch, consisting of four flat mouldings, with a profusion of ornamental sculpture. Above this are several blank arches; and on the north side of the tower are two similar ranges. The exterior of the church above the aisles, on both sides, has a continued arcade; and over this are a number of grotesque heads, &c.—It was formerly a privilege here, that any person accused of a crime, and intending to clear himself by canonical purgation, was obliged to do it in this church only, having first performed his vigil and prayers in the said church on the preceding evening. To this living are annexed those of Kingsthorpe and Upton. The advowson was given by Edward the Third to the hospital of St. Catherine, near the Tower of London, and still remains under its patronage.—There is a small monument in this church which commemorates the memory of John Smith, the eminent Metzotinto scraper, who died in January, 1742, aged 90 years.—There are likewise several other very handsome monuments.

A subscription has lately been opened for improving and beautifying the interior of this church.

The church dedicated to the honour of the holy Sepulchre is situate near the northern extremity of

the town, and is supposed to have been built by the Knights Templars, after the model of the church erected over the holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem ; there are but two other churches now standing, that are built upon the same plan, which are the Temple church in London, and Sepulchre's in Cambridge. It is of a circular form, and consists of a body, and north and south aisles, leaded. In the middle is a large cupola, also covered with lead, and supported by eight pillars of the Tuscan order ; each pillar standing at the distance of eight feet from one another, and forming an angle with the pillar next adjoining. At the east end is a very large chancel, in which are a number of curious figures and inscriptions of ancient dates. At the west end is a broad embattled tower, about sixteen feet in length, and eleven feet in breadth, on which is raised a pyramidal spire, about one hundred and sixteen feet high ; the tower contains six bells. The diameter of the church and aisles is fifty-eight feet six inches, and the compass of the circle of the eight pillars measured outwards one hundred and twelve feet eight inches. The body only was first built, the chancel and steeple plainly appear to have been added afterwards. On the wall of the church, within, on the left hand of the front door, are

some most curious barbarous figures in relief; but to what subject they allude is hitherto, and in all probability will remain unknown; and in the wall of a house, adjoining the church-yard, is a figured stone, supposed to be the top of a cross.

Upon an ordinary marble in the body of the church is the portrait of a man in brass, between his two wives, hand in hand; beneath the woman on the right are two sons and one daughter, beneath the other seven sons and two daughters, with the following lines under them:—

FAREWELL TRVE FRIEND, READER VNDERSTAND  
BY THIS MYSTERIOVS KNOTT, OF HAND IN HAND,  
THIS EMBLEM DOTH (WHAT FRIENDS MOST FAYLE TO DOE)  
RELATE OVR FRIENDSHIPP AND ITS FIRMNES TOO.  
SVCH WAS OVR LOVE, NOT TIME BVT DEATH DOTH SEVER,  
OVR MORTALL PARTS, BVT OVR IMMORTAL NEVER,  
ALL THINGS DOE VANISH HERE BELOWE, ABOVE  
SVCH AS OVR LIFE IS THERE, SUCH IS OVR LOVE.

And round the border of the stone is inscribed,

HERE RESTETH THE BODY OF GEORGE COLES OF  
NORTHAMPTON, WITH HIS TWO WIVES SARAH AND  
ELEANOR, BY WHOM HE HAD TWELVE CHILDREN.  
HE GAVE TO PIOVS VSES Xl. YEARELY FOR EVER  
TO THIS TOWNE, AND DECEASED THE FIRST OF  
JANVARY 1640.

In 1677, Mr. Nicholas Rothwell, of London, mealman, by a verbal will gave one hundred pounds to the use of the poor of this parish. With this money two small closes were purchased, the rent of which is applied to the placing out boys apprentices. The same sum was also given to each of the other parishes in Northampton, and likewise to the parish of Hardingston, in which he was born.

A very singular circumstance took place in this church a few years ago ; of which the following account has been copied from *Evans's Juvenile Tourist*, lately published.—“ During the service one morning, a noise was heard beneath one of the pews, which violently increasing, the people rushed out of the church, and the good parson coming down from the pulpit, ran after them ! The bottom of the pew was taken up, but nothing was to be seen : some thought the disturbance was raised by the *spirit* of a gentleman buried near the spot—whilst others were of opinion, that *Satan* had hit upon this wicked trick to put an end to their devotions ! Probably some vermin wanted the *riot act* read to them ; though it is somewhat singular that they should have been troublesome only on this occasion.”

Without the north gate, on the east side of the road leading to Kingsthorpe, was the church dedicated to St. Bartholomew. At what time it was demolished does not appear ; the church-yard, walled in, is now converted into a close, called Lawless church-yard, a corruption from St. Laurence's church-yard, by which name it was formerly known. The parish is now united to Sepulchre's.

The church dedicated to St. Edmund was situate without the east gate, between the roads leading to Wellingborough and Kettering. The site and church-yard are now converted into an orchard. A row of houses, called St. Edmund's-End, were built on each side the way, from the church to the upper end of Abington-street, but most of them were pulled down in the time of the rebellion, and very few of them re-built.

To the east of St. Peter's was the church dedicated to St. Gregory, which, on the petition of the parishioners, and those of All Saints parish, it was annexed to the latter.

In St. Mary's-street was the church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, which in 1589 was united to the vicarage of All Saints.

The church dedicated to St. Michael, was situate in St. Michael's-lane, at present called Wood-street.

Besides these demolished churches, in the parish of All Saints stood St. Catherine's chapel, in the cemetery of which were buried those who died of the plague, when it infested the town.

In the year 1459 was founded the college of All Saints, and from which the street called College lane received its name, and not, as supposed, from the university which was established here in the reign of Henry III.

Besides the before-mentioned churches, there are, at the present period, six other places of public worship in Northampton, viz. :—

The Independent Meeting, situate near the remains of the castle, and called Castle Hill Meeting. The body of this meeting is very large and roomy, besides which there are three galleries and a vestry-room ; it formerly belonged to the pious and learned Dr. Doddridge, who settled tutor at an academy in Northampton, in 1729, and died of a consumption, at Lisbon, in 1751, where he went for the recovery of his health. His seminary was of the highest reputation, and he was esteemed and admired by christians of every denomination.—He was author of several admirable works, particularly “ The Family Expositor,” in six volumes. A monument is erected in this meeting to his memory, which contains the

following inscription, drawn by his much-esteemed friend, Gilbert West, Esq.

To the memory of

PHILIP DODDRIDGE, D. D.

Twenty-one Years Pastor of this Church,

Director of a flourishing Academy,

And Author of many excellent Writings:

By which

His pious, benevolent, and indefatigable Zeal

To make Men wise, good, and happy,

Will far better be made known,

And perpetuated much longer,

Than by this obscure and perishing Marble,

The humble Monument, not of his Praise,

But of the r Esteem, Affection, and Regret,

Who knew him, lov'd him, and lament him,

And who are desirous of recording,

In this Inscription,

Their friendly but faithful Testimony

To the many amiable and christian Virtues

That adorned his more private Character,

By which, though dead, he yet speaketh,

And still present in remembrance,

Forcibly, though silently, admonisheth

His once beloved and ever grateful Flock.

He was born June 26, 1702,

And died October, 1751,

Aged 50.

There is also another Independent Meeting, in King's Head lane, which has been built within these few years.—This is not so large as the one before-mentioned, but by far the neatest; the interior being finished in a very handsome and agreeable

manner.—There are several neat monuments in this chapel, erected to the memory of private individuals.

The Baptist meeting, situated in College-lane, is a handsome well-built structure, capable of containing a large congregation.—The interior of the meeting is very spacious, and there are three large galleries, with a good vestry-room, &c.—Here are several plain neat monuments, among which is the following, to the memory of the Rev. John Ryland, who died at Bristol, on the 24th of July, 1792, and was interred here :—

SACRED  
to the Memory of  
The Rev. JOHN RYLAND, M. A.  
Who was eminently qualified  
for raising the Interest of God his SAVIOUR;  
which was exceedingly reduced in this place;  
where his Ministrations were so successful,  
that this house was *twice enlarged*;  
the warm *pathos*! the vivid *zeal*!  
and the striking *manner* of his delivering  
the *truths* of the *everlasting Gospel*,  
need no encomium: as they stand amply recorded  
in the hearts of his beloved Flock.  
After being *thirty-two years* their *Pastor*;  
he was gathered unto his People  
July 24th, 1792,  
Aged 69.

The Methodist Meeting (Wesleyans) is situated in King's Head lane; it is a small neat building, but

in consequence of its being so numerously attended, a piece of ground has been purchased for the erection of a new one, on a much larger scale, in Goldstreet, near the Horse-market.

There is an Antinomian meeting in St. Giles's-street, attended by a small congregation.

Also a Quaker's meeting in Kingswell-street, to which there are but few members belonging.

In the north-west part of the town, near the wall and bordering on the river, was the priory of St. Andrew. When it was first founded cannot be ascertained. In 1084 Simon de St. Liz (the first of that name, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon) repaired and largely endowed it, and replenishing it with Cluniac monks, from the abbey of St. Mary de Caritate, upon the Loire, made it a cell to that house.—In this priory were buried Simon de St. Liz, the second of that name, Earl of Northampton, and Earl Simon, his son.

The order of Franciscans, or Grey Friars, had a settlement here, soon after their coming to England, in 1224, and originally hired an habitation in St. Giles's parish. Afterwards removing to the north-east of the town, they built a house upon some ground which had been given them by the townspeople, who were therefore said to be the founders.

This convent was built in the thirtieth year of Henry III, in which year they obtained a grant of ten oaks, out of Salcey forest, towards its erection. In the church of the Grey Friars was buried Fyna, wife of William Fitz-Warine, certain indulgencies being granted in 1292 to all who should say a Paternoster for her soul. Humphrey Duke of Buckingham, who was slain in the battle of Northampton, and two of the Salisbury's were supposed to be buried here.

In the Horse-Market was the house of Black Friars, or Friars Preachers, who appear to have been settled here about 1240.

To the east of the Grey Friars stood the priory of the Carmelites, or White Friars, founded in the year 1271.

In Bridge-street was the house of Friars Augustins, founded in 1322.

On the east side of Bridge-street is St. John's hospital. The age and founder's name cannot be precisely determined. It consists of a chapel, a hall, or common room, with lodgings for the poor, and two rooms over them. There are two large windows with painted glass, in one of which are some imperfect coats of arms and broken figures, and the entire portrait of a person mitred, with a crosier in his hand, and another in a posture of prayer. In

the other window are several imperfect figures, and in various places, in small black letters, is *honor deo*.

Southward of St. John's, is St. Thomas's hospital, dedicated to the memory of Sir Thomas Beckett, founded and endowed about 1450, for the poor of the said town. By the original foundation twelve poor widows were maintained here, at an allowance of 1s. 11d. per week, with cloathing, firing, and washing. In 1654 Sir John Langham added six others, with an appointment of 20d. per week. One other poor woman has been added by the charity of Richard Massingberd. The women have now 4s. a week: besides which the trustees are enabled to pay £6 10s. per year, to 36 poor widows of freemen, resident out of the house.—Here is also a small chapel, in which is a window of painted glass.

By deed, bearing date 1st June, 33d Henry VIII, Thomas Chipsey, of Northampton, grocer, left lands at Holcot and other places for the support of a school-master, who should teach grammar free; and also £10 to the boys singing in All Saints church, and the residue of profits of the said lands, to be applied to repair the pavement of the market-place, then newly made. The founder not having provided a school-house, Cardinal Pool granted the church of St. Gregory, then in ruins, in the year

1557, to be made use of as a school, with the addition of a house for the master. In 1677, Paul Wentworth, of Lillingston-Lovell, Esq. charged his estate in that parish with a yearly payment of £20 to an usher for the said school. Besides the profits arising from the lands in Holcot, the master enjoys the rent of the vicarage house of St. Gregory, and five other tenements. The election of the master is vested in the mayor and corporation; and the appointment of the usher in the mayor, deputy-recorder, the vicar of All-Saints, the lord of the manor of Lillingston, and the master of the school.

In the year 1710, John Dryden, Esq. of Cherterton, established a school here, called the Blue-Coat School, and gave his house, the George inn, to endow it. An act of parliament was a few years since obtained by the trustees of this charity, enabling them to sell the house and invest the money in the funds, and appropriate the interest to the school. The George inn was purchased by a society of persons who subscribed £50 each, and to whom it now belongs.

The Brown Coat School was endowed by the late James, Earl of Northampton, and some other gentlemen of the county, who gave various sums of money to the corporation, with which they purchased an

estate at Bugbrook, the rents of which are applied to clothe and educate twenty-five boys of poor freemen.

The Green Coat School was endowed by Mr. Gabriel Newton, in the year 1761, who gave a rent charge of £26 per annum, to provide twenty-five poor boys with cloathing and education ; but this sum being insufficient, the corporation advance the remaining money necessary to the support of the establishment.—A large handsome school, with a dwelling-house for the master, has lately been erected in Bridge-street ; where both the Brown and Green Coat Boys are educated.

In the year 1738 a Girl's School was founded here by two ladies, who endowed it with lands and houses to educate and clothe thirty poor girls ; the revenues having encreased, six more children are now provided for.—A new school, with a house for the mistress, has been erected in Kingswell-street.

Two other schools have lately been established in Northampton, and which are supported by subscriptions and donations, viz. one in St. Giles's street, on the plan of Dr. Bell, the other in Derngate, on the Lancastrian system.—A general Sunday School has also been established at the latter, which is conducted upon the most liberal plan, and

has been attended with the happiest effect, as there are at the present time more than three hundred poor children, of every religious denomination, and who are required to attend divine service once on a Sunday, at whatever place their parents think proper, and the remainder part of the day is employed in learning them to read and write.

Among the public buildings in Northampton, none is more prominent in utility or extensive than the General Infirmary. It stands on the eastern side of and detached from the town, free from the bustle and tumults of society, and the situation is airy and salubrious, being on the brow of a hill, gradually sloping to the south, and when viewed from a distance, might be taken for a palace. The prospect from the south front is particularly beautiful, overlooking a long range of meadows, through which the river winds in various directions, and the opposite hills are ornamented with the fine plantations, belonging to E. Bouverie, Esq. above which appears the pleasant and romantic village of Hardington.—This elegant structure was begun in the year 1791, and opened in 1793; the expense of building was more than fifteen thousand pounds.—It consists of three stories above ground and one beneath, and is admirably calculated for the recep-

tion and accommodation of the sick ; all the interior apartments are arranged and constructed after the best models, and are of sufficient number and capacity to receive and accommodate the afflicted poor for a very extensive circle. One side of the house is appropriated to male and the other to female patients. The whole was designed and built by Mr. Saxton, architect, and is faced with white stone from the Kingsthorpe quarries ; the proprietor of which (the late Mr. John Drayton, of Northampton), made a present of the whole. The establishment is supported by the interest arising from numerous legacies and annual subscriptions, and the strictest attention is paid to the great object of the establishment ; and it must afford much pleasure and gratification to the benevolent and humane mind to contemplate the extensive benefit that has been afforded by this infirmary. Exclusive of medical and surgical aid, the establishment provides proper accommodations, constant attention, with wholesome and nutritious food. In this new asylum for the afflicted all the inconveniences which attended the old one have been carefully avoided.—Previous to the General Infirmary being built the old County Hospital was near All Saints Church, in the midst of the town, and afforded relief to poor persons belonging to the

county *only*; but on its removal was made a *General Infirmary*, and intended to administer its aid to all persons properly recommended, or to any one when required by accident or sudden emergency.—In the year 1813, a full-length striking likeness of Dr. Kerr (upwards of fifty years surgeon, &c. to this and the old Infirmary) painted by Mr. Phillips, was placed in the committee-room, the expense of which was defrayed by a voluntary subscription of the Governors, as a mark of their attachment and good opinion of him, not only as an able and successful surgeon and physician to the above institution, but as a principal promoter in the execution and completing the present comfortable, useful, and elegant building.—The Doctor is now in his 77th year, and follows the duties of his laborious profession with as much activity and earnestness as many Gentlemen of fifty.

At the northern extremity of the town are the barracks, for cavalry, erected in the year 1796.—They are a handsome range of building, of white stone, consisting of north and south wings, with apartments in the centre for the officers, and every other requisite appendage.—The situation is particularly healthy and pleasant, and being on a rising

ground, they command a fine view of the surrounding country for many miles.

The Town Hall is an ancient building, not very large, in which the corporation hold their meetings; the town sessions, and all business of a public nature is transacted here. In the hall are several very ancient paintings; also, a fine whole-length painting of the late deservedly lamented Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, M. P. in a most elegant frame, presented to the corporation by Peter Denys, Esq. which is allowed to be a very striking likeness. There are likewise many inscriptions, neatly framed, recapitulating the several charities under the management of the corporation, &c.

The County Hall, where the assizes are held, is a large handsome building, fitted up for the two courts of Nisi Prius and the Crown; it is very spacious and well adapted for the purpose; the prison adjoining to it, the criminal reaches the bar by means of a subterraneous communication. Besides the assizes, twice a year, the quarter sessions are held here, and all meetings relating to the county. The court being so very large, it frequently occurs at the assizes, that trials are going on, at the same time, at both bars, without the least interruption to each other. There are several very good paintings of different Monarchs

in the hall, and some curious fretwork on the ceiling.—Without side, over each door, and in various other parts of the building, is some very curious stone work, &c. &c.

Behind this is the County Gaol, which was begun to be built in the year 1791, and was finished in 1794, at the expense of nearly £16,000. It is a large modern building, well adapted to the purposes for which its apartments are appropriated, and will contain about 120 prisoners. It is arranged according to the plan of the late Mr. Howard.

The Town Gaol is situated in Fish-lane. It is a small modern building, and erected within these few years.

The Theatre is situated in Gold-street, and is a very neat handsome building, formed after the plan and much resembling the Hay-market theatre, in London, though not so large. It was opened in the year 1806, by Mr. Robertson's company, but is now under the management of Mr. Simms, whose company generally perform about two or three months in the year. The prices of admission are, the Boxes 3s. 6d.—Pit 2s.—Gallery 1s.

At the end of the street called Derngate, is a beautiful walk, formed at the expense of the corporation; the sides are planted with trees and

shrubs, which renders it peculiarly eligible as a promenade, and the fine views over the adjoining meadows, through which the river Nen winds itself in gentle evolutions, render it very striking and picturesque. Adjoining to this walk is a fine spring of water, called Becket's well, and at the bottom of the walk is a medicinal spring called Vigo, so named from its being discovered, cleansed, and defended with a wall, about the time that Vigo was taken. At the south-east corner of the wall was a large building, with a tower at the west end, situate in the close still called from it the Tower close. In the barns belonging to this structure, during the rebellion, were set large vats to receive the salt-petre which was dug out of old cellars in the town, and prepared for a gunpowder mill, which stood on the brook that runs from St. Thomas's hospital, on the north side of the cow-meadow.

On the north side of the town, the distance of a pleasant walk, is the Race Ground, containing about 117 acres, and which is allotted to the freemen of the town, for cattle, &c.—The races are generally held about the beginning of September, and mostly attended by a great deal of company. Within these last few years there have been others held here, called the Pytchley Hunt Races,

which are also well attended, and generally afford excellent sport.—They are held about the latter end of March.

There are also various other pieces of land belonging to free men of the town, of which the corporation are left as trustees.

Northampton is very pleasantly situated on an eminence, and gently sloping towards the river, by which it is bounded on the south and west.—The streets are in general handsome, strait, and well-built; the market-place in particular is an ornament to the town, and allowed to be one of the handsomest in England.—Much of the beauty of Northampton is owing to the dreadful fire of 1675, the houses at that time being mostly built of wood; but on its being re-built, they were made more secure and ornamental by being erected principally of stone. Nearly all the streets and lanes are paved, both for carriages and foot passengers; it is also well lighted, and being on a descent, the streets are generally very clean and pleasant.—It is a very easy and convenient distance from London, only sixty-six miles, to and from whence coaches are passing almost every hour, being the thoroughfare road to Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Manchester, &c.—The principal trade is the manufacture of shoes,

of which great quantities are sent abroad, and it is the first mart in England from whence our army and navy are supplied with those articles and boots; there is also a considerable trade carried on here in the manufacture of lace; it likewise contains a great number of handsome shops of various descriptions, and, as an inland town, Northampton can boast of some most excellent well-conducted inns.—Private lodgings are also to be obtained in many genteel families, and which, from the situation being in the vicinity of the Pytchley and other hunts, are generally occupied, during the season, by gentlemen of the highest respectability.—The horse fairs here are particularly well attended.—The mail for London leaves Northampton every evening between seven and eight o'clock, and the one from London arrives every morning between five and six.—A great number of houses have been built within these few years, and many others are now erecting in different parts of the town and neighbourhood.

According to the returns made of the population of Northampton in the years 1801 and 1811, it will be perceived, by the following statement, that a very great increase of inhabitants took place in the course of ten years, viz.—

| <i>Population of Northampton.</i>    |                     | 1801. | 1811 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|------|
| All Saints.                          | { Males . . . . .   | 1917  | 2300 |
|                                      | { Females . . . . . | 2096  | 2571 |
| St. Giles's.                         | { Males . . . . .   | 571   | 701  |
|                                      | { Females . . . . . | 765   | 822  |
| Sepulchre's.                         | { Males . . . . .   | 587   | 761  |
|                                      | { Females . . . . . | 711   | 879  |
| St. Peter's.                         | { Males . . . . .   | 168   | 210  |
|                                      | { Females . . . . . | 205   | 183  |
|                                      |                     | 7020  | 8427 |
| Increase.                            | { Males . . . . .   |       | 729  |
|                                      | { Females . . . . . |       | 678  |
| Total Increase in 10 Years . . . . . |                     |       | 1407 |

In the year 1811, the whole county contained 28,318 inhabited houses, and 141,353 inhabitants.

### ABINGTON.

Abington, in Domesday-book named Abintone, is a pleasant little village, about one mile from Northampton, on the road to Wellingborough; it is bounded on the east by Weston-Favell, on the north by Kingsthorpe and Moulton, on the west by Northampton, and on the south by the river Nine. Here is a good Manor-house, the seat of J. H. Thursby, Esq. with a park adjoining, in which is a water-house and reservoir, built to receive a stream

flowing from a spring called Broadley-head. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are three bells. At the end of each aisle is a chauntry chapel, leaded ; and in the different windows are several curious arms and figures, many of them in a perfect state, but some of them broken ; and in various parts of the church and chancel, are some very ancient monuments and inscriptions, particularly one in the north aisle ; on a flat stone are the figures of a man and woman, in the habits of the times, with a brass plate underneath, recording the memory of William Mayle and Margaret, his wife, and thirteen of their children. Upon several bricks which lie dispersed in the chancel are these arms: three cross crosslets fitché, on a chief, a rose, and a mullet of six points, as also the arms of Westminster. On a marble near one of the windows in the south aisle, is the following inscription, in gilt letters :

*In memory that Mr. Pamer, in 1718, husband of Mrs. Mary Pamer, left twenty pounds, the interest of it to be given to the poore of this parish on St. Thomas's day for ever.*

The communion plate was given by the late Mr. Thursby, and consists of two large silver flagons,

double gilt, a chalice and cover, with a cross, and a plate of the same, inscribed *Oblatio Gul. Thursby*.

## ALTHORPE.

Althorpe, the seat of Earl Spencer, is situated about six miles west of Northampton. The house, which is large, occupies three sides of a quadrangle, and was built by the Earl of Sunderland, in the year 1688. This estate has belonged to the Spencers ever since the reign of Henry the Seventh. Robert Lord Spencer was succeeded, 1627, by his son William, and he, 1637, by his son Henry, created Earl of Sunderland after the battle of Edgehill, 1642, and slain at the battle of Newbury the same year. The contents of this mansion are highly interesting and valuable; particularly its large and fine collection of paintings, and vast library of choice and scarce books; in the latter article the noble proprietor is laudably emulous of possessing the most enlarged and selected collection in England, and it is generally admitted that he has succeeded. The books at this place fill three or four apartments, besides which his Lordship has a large library at his house in London. The park at Althorpe is well stocked with deer, and distinguished by large masses of forest trees, and great inequality of surface in the natural disposition of its grounds.

## EARL'S-BARTON,

In Domesday-book named Baurton and Burton, is bounded on the east by Doddington, on the north, by Mear's-Ashby; by Ecton on the west, and on the south by the Nine, which divides it from Whiston and Grendon; and is about six miles from Northampton. Here was formerly a wood, called Barton Broil. It is named Earl's-Barton from the Earls of Huntingdon, who were anciently superior lords of the fee.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is a broad embattled tower, with antique arches and window cases, in which are five bells. On the north side the chancel are five small niches, supported by pillars, and six on the south side; above these are three others, and a bason for holy-water.

The sum of £50 has lately been bequeathed, by Mrs. Elizabeth Whitworth, of Earl's-Barton, for the purchase of communion plate, for the use of the parish church, which sum has been augmented by her executrix, Mrs. Mary Whitworth, who has purchased a very elegant service of plate, which was presented to the minister and church-

wardens, on Christmas-Day, 1814, thence to remain for the use of the parish for ever.

And as a further inducement for the residence of the minister of Earl's-Barton, and for promoting the religion of the Church of England, Mrs. Whitworth has given the sum of £500 to trustees, who are to pay the interest thereof to the officiating clergyman of the said parish, upon condition of his residing therein, and preaching a sermon, both morning and afternoon, every Sunday. The testatrix has also given other charitable donations for ever to the poor of the parishes of Earl's-Barton and Finedon, where she had estates.

### GREAT BILLING.

Here is the seat of Robert Cary Elwes, Esq. formerly belonging to the Cavendish family. It is situated about four miles from Northampton, on the road to Wellingborough.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the west end stands a plain coped tower in which are three bells. On the north side of the chancel is a burial place, belonging to the Earl of Thomond.

John Freeman, Esq. lord of this manor, and sheriff

of the county, in the fourth year of James I, by his will, bearing date the 25th February, 1614, gave two thousand pounds to found two fellowships in Clare-Hall, Cambridge, of the value of £26 per annum each, and eight scholarships, of £6 per annum ; to which his kinsmen are to be preferred in the first place, and in default of such, then any scholars in the county, and for want of such, then any scholars born in Lincolnshire. The almshouse in this town, was built after his death, by his order, which he had endowed with a yearly provision of six pounds each for one man and four women. These were formerly nominated by the two daughters and heirs of Sir William Haslewood, of Maidwell, but are now put in by Lord Hatton.

Sir Isaac Wake, who was employed by King James I, as his ambassador to Venice, Savoy, and other States, was the son of Arthur Wake, rector of this parish. He had his education in Merton College, Oxford, and was chosen public orator, and member of parliament for the university in 1623. He was eminent for his learning, ingenuity, and elocution ; and was author of several orations and discourses.

#### LITTLE BILLING,

The residence of the Rev. Henry Portington.

is situated about one mile from the former. Part of the mansion house, which was formerly inhabited by the Longvilles (lords of this manor) is still standing, and has great marks of antiquity; the door-cases, of Harlestone free-stone, are thick and large; and at the south end is a turret, with a staircase leading to the leads. Part of it is embattled.

### BRINGTON.

Brington, commonly called Brighton, is situated about half a mile from Althorpe. The church, dedicated to the blessed Virgin, consists of a body, north and south aisles, chancel, and north chancel or burying place, all leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are five bells, bearing date in 1613, 1614, 1637, 1661, and 1670, besides the saint's bell. There are several large and stately monuments, to different persons of the Spencer family. Under an arch of free-stone, in the north chancel, curiously embellished, are the figures of a knight, in armour, with his lady. Upon a black marble tomb, are the figures of a baron and baroness, in their robes of state; over them is an arch of black and white marble, supported by eight pillars of black marble, of the Corinthian order, with white capitols. Under an arch, elegantly adorned, are

the figures of a knight in armour with his lady, lying on a tomb with their hands raised ; and over them is an achievement of arms.

## BRIXWORTH.

About six miles from Northampton, on the Leicester road, is the large respectable village of Brixworth. Towards the close of the reign of Henry III, Simon Fitz-Simon procured for himself and heirs, the privilege of a weekly market, on Tuesdays, at this place, and an annual fair, continued for three days, commencing on the eve of St. Boniface : there is no date how long these customs existed, but it is supposed they ceased with the extinction of the family to whom they were granted.

The base of a cross, on an ascent of two or three steps, is still standing, and was probably the ancient butter or market cross. Within these few years an annual fair, on the Monday after the Ascension, has been revived.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a spacious body, south aisle, and chancel, leaded. The south aisle extends westward not above half the length of the church, but from marks of arches in the walls appears to have been anciently of equal length. At the west end, on a tower, with a plain

pinnacle at each corner, is a pyramidal spire. From the west end of the tower, a large staircase projects into the church-yard. A curious relic of Gothic superstition was some time ago discovered in this church, over the altar tomb of Adam de Taunton, who died possessed of this living, in the year 1332. A large stone protruded from the wall, surmounted by a rude head, on removing which, a circular aperture was disclosed, wherein was deposited a wooden box, containing part of a human jaw bone, and a thick substance, slightly elastic.

In the vicarage house are old arches ; and dead bodies have been dug up in the brewhouse and cellar. From these circumstances it is supposed to have been formerly a chapel.

Not far from the church-yard are slight traces of trenches, and two or three tumuli are seen in the vicinity ; and about half a mile to the south-west of the village, is the site of the old manor-house of Woolhage, in which Sir James Harrington founded a chauntry, and endowed it with lands in Lancashire.

In this town are ten or twelve springs, seldom dry ; one of which, called Bartlet's well, was made up by Margaret Bartlet, a maiden, for the use of travellers.

Brixworth Hall, once the seat of the Rainsfords,

but now of W. Strickland, Esq. is a plain neat family mansion, surrounded by the village, from which it is screened by plantations, and enclosed within a wall.

### BLISWORTH

Is about five miles from Northampton, on the road to Towcester, and is a place of very considerable traffic, from the line of communication between the Metropolis and the different parts of the kingdom on the Grand Junction Canal, being effected here.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a body, north and south aisles, north porch, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are five bells. There are several pieces of painted glass in the windows. In the north windows of the chancel were small portraits of the twelve apostles, four of which remain still complete. Here was formerly the residence of the family of Wakes, with a park and warren. There is a wood called Blisworth wood, and adjoining to it a large plain, where the inhabitants of Road have also a right of common.

In this village is that fine stupendous piece of work, the Tunnel, which was completed in the spring of 1805, and opened on the 25th of March in that year, in the following order, viz.—

One of the Paddington packet-boats, called the Marquis of Buckingham was the first boat which went through the tunnel : this was early in the morning, in order to join the other boats assembled at the north end of the tunnel, at Blisworth. About eleven o'clock the Committee of the Canal Company (who had superintended this great work) and a great number of others of the principal proprietors, entered the boats, attended by the engineers employed on the canal, and a band of music, and proceeded into the tunnel, amidst the loudest acclamations of the spectators. The pitchy darkness of the tunnel was shortly relieved by a number of flambeaus and lights ; but the company in general seemed lost in contemplating the stupendous efforts by which this amazing arch of brick-work (about eighteen inches thick in general, fifteen feet wide, and nineteen in heighth, with inside, being of an elliptical form, 3080 yards in length) had been completed between the 10th of August, 1792, and the 26th of February, 1805. The heighth of the hill, above the tunnel, being, for a considerable way, full sixty feet ; for drawing up the clay and soil which was excavated, and letting down the materials to different parts of the works, nineteen shafts, or wells, were sunk on different parts of the line, and a heading, or small

arch was run or formed the whole length, below the present tunnel, with numerous cross branches to draw off the springs of water, which would otherwise have impeded the works. In an hour and two minutes the boats with the company arrived at the south end of the tunnel, and were greeted with the loud huzzas of some thousands of persons, who were assembled, and who accompanied the boats with continual cheers as they proceeded down the locks to Stoke, and from thence to Old-Stratford.

Though this tunnel completes the line of the canal, and enables boats freely to pass the whole length, yet, besides the embankment across a valley near Stony-Stratford, intended to preserve the level of the canal across the same, instead of the locks down on the one side and up on the other, by which boats pass at present—several other works have been completed in different places, for improving the canal, or rendering it more completely watertight, where the soil is faulty.

### BOUGHTON.

About three miles and a half north of Northampton, on the Leicester road, is the village of Boughton.—Here was formerly the seat of the Earl of Strafford, pleasantly situated upon a rising ground,

commanding a very extensive prospect, with a park finely wooded ; but, on the death of the earl, the title became extinct, and this portion of his property devolved to W. H. Vyse, Esq. son of General Vyse. The mansion house was an irregular and antiquated building, though not very extensive ; a part of it was pulled down some years ago, and the remainder has lately undergone the same fate, but it is generally supposed, from the situation being so extremely pleasant, that a new one will be erected.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, formerly stood upon the Green, about half a mile distant from the village. It now lies in ruins, not any part of the roof remaining, and most of the walls are levelled with the ground. It consisted of a body, chancel, and north chancel, or chauntry chapel. At the west end was a spire of eight sides, raised upon a plain coped tower. The church-yard is still used as the burial place for the inhabitants.

In the town is a chapel, where divine service is performed : it consists of a body and chancel, under one roof, tiled. At the west end is a low embattled tower, in which are three bells, bearing date, 1653.

In the twenty-seventh year of the reign of Edward III, Sir Henry Green obtained for himself and his heirs, the grant of a fair to be held yearly in the

same manor, for the space of three days, beginning upon the vigil of the nativity of St. John, and ending the day after. Since that time the fair at Boughton-Green has become the most celebrated in this part of the kingdom, and is resorted to by great numbers of persons, both for pleasure and business of every description.

## BROCKHALL

Is a small village, about nine miles west of Northampton, belonging to T. R. Thornton, Esq. whose seat is here.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and consists of a body and two aisles, chancel, and small porch on the south side, leaded. The steeple is built with a tower, in which are two bells and a saint's bell. In the upper north window of the chancel is part of a broken portrait, and some labels in Gothic characters; and there are several plain neat monuments to the memory of the Thornton family.

## BRAYFIELD.

Brayfield, in Doomsday-book named Brachefeld, Brachesfelde, and Bragefelde, in some later records, Braunfeld, and now called Brayfield-on-the-Green, is about four miles from Northampton. It is

bounded on the east by Denton, Whiston, and Cogenho, on the north by Cogenho and the river Nine, on the west by Houghton and the London road, from Billing-bridge, and on the south by Hackleton. It is situate high, on the top of an ascent, which begins from the river. The meadows lie intermixed with Little Houghton, as do all the lands. The common is divided, by a decree in chancery, obtained by agreement, and the road is the boundary.

### BUGBROOK.

Bugbrook, in Domesday-book named Buchebrooe, is bounded on the east by Kislingbury, by Heyford on the north, on the west by Stowe, and on the south by Gayton, and is about six miles from Northampton.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. On the south side is a porch, and on the north side a small vestry, both covered with lead. At the west end is a tower, on which is raised a pyramidal steeple of eight sides. In the tower are five bells.

The sum of twenty-five shillings, yearly, issuing from lands in the parish, was given by the last will of James Bracegirdle, bearing date 4th March, 1633,

to be distributed by the minister and church-wardens, on St. Thomas's day.

## CASTLE-ASHBY.

About seven miles from Northampton is Castle-Ashby, the elegant seat of the Marquis of Northampton.—It is situated near the northern extremity of Yardley Chase, through which is a fine wide avenue, three miles in length, directly to the south-front of the mansion.—The house, which is a very large building, stands on the brow of a gentle eminence, and commands to the east, west, and north a wide tract of inclosed grazing country. It is supposed to have been built by Henry, Lord Compton, who was created a baron in the fourteenth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Great additions and improvements have since been made, particularly by the present noble owner. This mansion is a square building, and forms a quadrangle court within. The sides to the east and south were designed by Inigo Jones; that on the east was originally open, with cloisters to the garden, but they are now filled up. At the south-east and south-west angles of the court, are two lofty octangular towers, the parapets of which, as well as the whole parapets of the court elevation, are formed by stones cut in the shape of

letters ; and arranged so as to repeat the following text : “ *Nisi Dominus ædificaverit Domum in vanum laboraverunt, qui ædificant eam.*” In the balustrades of the turrets are the dates 1625 and 1635 ; marking the time when the screen was built, and the upper parts of the house finished : on the opposite side the court to the entrance screen, is the great hall, a lofty-handsome apartment, containing family paintings, &c. with a gallery at each end.

The drawing-room is uncommonly spacious, but its ornaments are heavy though expensive. The other apartments are in a more modern taste, and extremely commodious. They are decorated with many family portraits, as well as of other eminent persons. Pennant discovered here, in a garret, the original picture of that hero, John Talbot, first Earl of Shrewsbury, and his countess. The most valuable painting is that of George Villers, Duke of Buckingham, after he was stabbed by Felton. It actually personifies death ; and it is impossible to look at it without mingled sensations of horror and surprise. Walpole ranks these two pictures among the most ancient examples of oil painting in England. The libraries contain many curious and valuable books, amongst which is a translation of the Bible, by Coverdale, with a

dedication to Henry VIII, and a preface, printed in 1513. Here is likewise a manuscript History of England, which appears to be Caxton's, but the beginning and end are lost. In a large drawing-room, up stairs, is an immense chimney-piece of marble, dug from a quarry in this county. The cellars are large, lofty, and peculiarly adapted to contain a vast stock of ales, wines, &c.; they are formed like the crypts of churches, being supported on columns and ribbed arches.

The pleasure grounds and plantations, with a large piece of water in the park, were laid out by Brown, and the chace woods adjoining, are of great extent, and form a splendid ornament to the whole. To the lover of botany, the Marchioness of Northampton's green-house or conservatory, will afford the highest gratification. It is of great magnitude, and filled with the choicest plants the four quarters of the world produce.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands at a small distance from the house, and consists of a body, two aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the upper end of the north aisle is a chapel, separated from the aisle by a wooden screen. At the west end is a small embattled tower, in which are six bells. It is remarkable for its neatness; there is an ancient

curious porch on the north side, and an old altar tomb, with a statue of a cross-legged knight, in chain armour; and in the windows of the north aisle, are the remains of figures of angels and saints, with some imperfect words.

There is here an almshouse, inhabited by poor old women.

### CHURCH-BRAMPTON.

Church-Brampton, in Domesday-book simply Brantone, is about four miles from Northampton. It is bounded on the east by Boughton, on the north by Spratton, from which it is divided by a brook, rising in Coton-field, in the parish of Guilsborough, by Harlestone and Holdenby on the west, and on the south by Dallington. In old records it is called Brampton Magna, to distinguish it from the adjoining hamlet; and in later ones Church-Brampton, from the mother-church standing in this Lordship.

The church, dedicated to St. Botolph, consists of a body, two aisles, and a chancel, leaded, with a porch. At the west end is a tower steeple, in which are four bells and a saint's bell.

Mr. James Bracegirdle, in 1634, bequeathed £3, issuing from lands in Bugbrook, to the church and poor of this parish; and also 25s. annually to the

parish of Bugbrook ; and 20s. per annum to the parishes of All Saints and Sepulchre, in Northampton. The part allotted to the poor, is equally distributed between Church-Brampton and Chapel-Brampton. This benevolent man was buried here, and a small brass plate within the rails of the altar, contains the following inscription :—

*Here lieth interred the body of James Brasegirdle, Gentleman, whoe departed this life, the third day of Aprill, Anno Domino 1634.*

### CHAPEL-BRAMPTON

Is a small hamlet, adjoining the above. Of the chapel, from which this village received its name of distinction, there are no remains, and but a very imperfect tradition. A small bell some years ago preserved in the town, was said to have belonged to it. Here is supposed to have been formerly an ancient manor-house, in a close which still retains the name of Hall-close.

### COGENHO.

Cogenho, in Domesday-book called Cugenho, and now generally called Cooknoe, is bounded on the east by Whiston, on the north by Ecton and

the river Nine, and on the west and south by Brayfield and Whiston, and is situate about four miles from Northampton.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, chancel, and south porch, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are three bells. In the north-east corner of the porch is a receptacle for holy-water. The register begins 1558. Under the upper window of the south aisle lies the figure of a knight templar, upon a tomb, completely armed, with a dog at his feet, and on his left arm is a shield, whereon are these arms: a fess between three mascles. This is said to be the tomb of Sir Nicholas de Cugenho, Lord of this manor in the time of Edward I, and reported to be the founder of the church. The like arms are cut upon the pillars which support the nave. Against the upper pillar of the church, on the western side, is a sinister bend. In this church was a chauntry, founded by William de Cugenho, for one priest to sing for ever at our lady's altar. This chauntry seems to have been on the north side of the chancel, as there are marks of a large arch, now filled up, through which was probably the entrance into the chauntry chapel.

In a lane on the south east of the town, was found

an uncommon fossil, very transparent, and capable of receiving a polish as bright and hard as chrystal. Part of it was sent up to some skilful lapidaries in London, who had never seen any thing of the like kind before. But not being applied to any particular use, very little was dug, though considerable quantities, it is supposed, might have been raised. Some Roman coins have also been found here in the common fields, on which was a head of Faustina, and in a barn, in the town, was discovered an urn, very thin, and of a whitish colour, containing a mixture of ashes and earth. From its size, it is conjectured, it was one of those which are called family urns ; and, from its appearance, probably belonged to some ancient family.

In 1806 was dug up in Cogenho church-yard, a stone coffin, but upon which no inscription could be found.

### COLLINGTREE.

Collingtree, in Domesday-book named Colentree, and in some later records Colyntrough, is about four miles south of Northampton, and bounded on the east and south by Courtenhall, and on the west by Milton ; on the north it is divided from Wootton by a small brook which joins the Nine at Upton-mill.

The church, dedicated to St. Columbus, consists of a body, two aisles, and a chancel, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are four bells. It appears to have been for some time united to the church of Middleton, now called Milton.

The old parish registers were consumed by a fire, which broke out in the parsonage house some years ago, and burnt a considerable part of the village.

### COURTENHALL

Is a pleasant little village, about six miles from Northampton, near the borders of Salcey forest. Here is the beautiful seat of Sir William Wake, Bart. which has been erected within these few years. It is bounded on the east by Quinton, on the north by Wootton, on the west by Colingtree, and on the south by Road. It is divided from Wootton by a small brook, which has its rise in Horton Lordship, and joins the Nine at Upton-mill.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded, with a north and south porch, tiled. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are five modern bells. It is now situated at the upper end

of the village, but formerly had many houses standing beyond and about it ; which, since the inclosure of the parish, have been pulled down. On the south side of the chancel are three stone seats, and a bason for holy water. At the upper end of the north aisle is a handsome monument of Italian marble, with the effigies of Sir Samuel Jones and his lady, in a kneeling posture. He died in the year 1762, aged 63. In the same aisle, under the arch leading into the chancel, is a monument of free-stone, covered with a plank of black marble. Upon the top were formerly the figures of a man and his wife, in brass, with their children below them, which are now demolished, and round the tomb the following very curious inscription, in Gothic characters :

A Salop's Osely I, a ruen Partridge woone,  
No Birds I had her by, such work with her was doone ;  
She dead, I Turtle sought a Wake in Salsie bred,  
Twice six Birds she me brought, she lives, but I am dead.  
But when ninth year was come, I slept that was a Wake  
Thus yielding to death's doome, did here my lodging take.

There is here a free-school, founded by Sir Samuel Jones, endowed with £80 per annum, to the master, and £20 to the usher. For the building of this school, and houses for the master and usher, he left, by will, £500, which was laid out by his executors, according to his intentions. Besides

this endowment, Sir Samuel Jones gave £500 towards repairing the church, and increasing the number of bells to five. To the poor he gave £10 yearly for ever; and £20 per annum for binding out apprentices, to be paid to the overseers on every Easter Monday.

### CREATON-MAGNA.

Creton-Magna, or Great-Creton, in Domesday-book named Cretone, Creptone, and Craptone, hath Brixworth on the east, Cottesbrook on the north, Hollowell and Guilsborough parish on the west, and Spratton on the south. A brook which rises from springs in Naseby field, divides this lordship from Spratton, and flows on to Pitsford. Another brook rising from springs in Maidwell and Draughton bounds it on the east, and joins the former between Spratton and Brixworth. It is about eight miles from Northampton, adjoining the Chester turnpike road.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a body and chancel, leaded, and two porches, tiled. At the west end is a tower steeple, in which are four bells.

### CREATON-PARVA.

Creton-Parva, or Little-Creton, is a small hamlet, near the above, but in Spratton parish.

## DALLINGTON

Is a pleasant little village, within a mile of Northampton, from whence the walk is particularly rural and picturesque. It is bounded on the east by the river, which divides it from Northampton and Kings-thorpe, on the north by Harlestone, and on the west and south by Duston. Here is a good manor-house, formerly the residence of the Lord Chief Justice Raynsford, but now of R. W. Blencowe, Esq.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, with a chancel, and a north chancel or burial-place. At the west end is a low embattled tower, with four bells. This church contains several very handsome monuments, commemorative of the Rainsford and Jeykill families. Against the north wall of the Rainsford's burial place is a beautiful alabaster monument, supported by two black marble pillars. At the top is *Argent a Cross sable*; on the pediment, on each side these arms, is a boy, weeping, with his hand upon a scull; and at the bottom are two other boys, that on the right with a syringe, drawing up the tears which fall on the ground, and that on the left with a spade in his hand; and in the centre is a long inscription, recording the memory of several of

the Rainsford family. Near the above is a large elegant monument, on a pedestal, resembling a covered table, with a large flaming urn; on the right side is a boy, weeping, and holding a shield; and on the left a boy in the same posture, holding the family arms.—Underneath, on an oval tablet of black marble, elegantly adorned with foilage, is an inscription to the memory of the Chief Justice Rainsford. At a short distance from these are two very beautiful monuments; one to the memory of Joseph Jeykill, Esq. who died in 1752, in the 39th year of his age; and the other to the memory of Lady Anne Jeykill, second daughter of George, Earl of Halifax, by Mary, his second wife, daughter of Richard, Earl of Scarborough; she left only one daughter, Ann, since married to George Wright, Esq. of Gayhurst, in the county of Buckingham. Lady Ann Jeykill, died 20th January, 1766, aged 51. There are, besides the above, several plain neat monuments.

Here is an almshouse for two old men and two old women, at two shillings per week each, erected by Justice Rainsford.

The north side of St. James's End is in this parish.

## DUSTON

Is a small village, about one mile and a half west of Northampton. It is pleasantly situated on a hill, commanding very extensive prospects of the surrounding country. It is bounded on the east by Dallington and Northampton, on the north by Harleston, by Harpole on the west, and on the south by Upton. To the south-east and north-east it is bounded by the different branches of the river Nine, A small brook, rising from Well-head spring in Duston-field, divides it from Dallington. A part of St. James's End is in this parish.

The church is dedicated to St. Luke, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. Between the church and chancel stands the steeple, which is tower built, and contains three bells. This church was given to the abbey of St. James by William Peverel, its founder, and the grant confirmed by Simon, Earl of Northampton, and afterwards by Henry II. Upon the wall in the chancel are some very curious heads, which having lately been painted various colours, have a very singular appearance.

In this parish was formerly the ancient monastery of St. James's Abbey, which was founded by William Peverel, natural son of William the Conqueror,

for black cannons of the Augustine order. By the survey taken of the revenues in the year 1553, the clear annual income amounted to £175 8s. 2d. ; and in the year 1559 it was, with its possessions, surrendered to the royal commissioners. Some remains of the walls and foundations are all the vestiges traceable at present of this ancient and well-endowed monastery. The precise time of its erection does not appear ; but it is supposed to have been built before the year 1112, the founder dying about the end of that year, or the beginning of 1113. Adeliva, his wife, died in 1119. The ground allotted them by the founder, for the buildings, was forty acres, to which he added the mill and church of Duston. In the fifty-second of Henry III, they obtained licence for a fair, to be held at the convent on the eve of the festival of St. James, and the two following days. This grant was renewed in the fourteenth year of Henry IV. The fair continued to be held in the abbey-grounds long after the dissolution of the monastery ; but it was afterwards removed to Northampton.

The site of the church and church-yard, contains about two acres ; and the abbey demesnes lay on both sides the road which leads to Daventry. Going down to the abbey is a causway, called cut-throat

lane, with the old wall upon the left. In a close adjoining was a mill, supplied by a spring, now called the abbey spring. In this close was kept St. James's fair; and formerly there were standing in it a barn and dove-house; and here is supposed to have stood the abbey itself. They seem to have been situate on a descent from Duston, to the south and south-east. Westward is a wall of ashler-stone, near which are the foundations of buildings. Here was also the Church of St. Margaret, which in 1259, was annexed to the church of Duston.

## ECTON

Is a large pleasant village, about five miles from Northampton, on the road to Wellingborough. It was anciently called Eketon, Echington, and in Domesday-book Echentone. It is bounded on the east by a brook which divides it from Earl's-Barton, on the north by Mear's-Ashby, Sywell, and Overstone; on the west a small brook parts it from Great-Billing and Little-Billing, and on the south the Nine divides it from Cogenho and Whiston.

Here is the seat of Samuel Isted, Esq. a handsome modern stone building, surrounded by pleasant plantations, and grounds of a diversified appearance; and also the parsonage-house, a very handsome struc-

ture, the residence of the Rev. Thomas Whalley, which was built by Thomas Palmer, rector, in 1693. Here are several of Hogarth's original paintings.

The church is dedicated to Mary Magdalen, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, north and south porches, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is an handsome tower, in which are six bells. Here is a clock put up in 1630, and chimes in 1690. From the difference of the stone and workmanship, the upper part of the tower and north porch are thought to have been added since the building of the church.

In 1672, in levelling some ground in Mr. Catesby's gardens, about two hundred yards north-eastward from the church, were discovered several bones and skulls, lying in order from west to east. Among them were found two silver coins, of the size of a silver three-pence.

Here is a school for poor children, upon which is inscribed :

*A School for Poor Children,*

*built by John Palmer,*

*Ao. MDCCLII.*

## FLOORE

Is a large village, about seven miles from Northampton, on the road to Daventry. It was, in Domesday-book, called Flora, supposed from the pleasantness of its situation. It is bounded on the east by Upper-Heyford, by Brington north, on the west by Dodford, and by Nether-Heyford on the south. A brook, which takes its rise in Welton field, passes by this Lordship on the south and west, and joins the river Nine in Nether-Heyford field.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a body, north and south aisles, south porch and chancel, and a vestry on the north side of the chancel, leaded. At the west end is a square embattled tower, in which are five bells, cast in 1679. This church was given, in the reign of King John, to Merton Abbey, in Surrey : but at the dissolution was granted to Christ Church, Oxford, to which college it now belongs.

Dr. Leonard Hutton, presented to this vicarage in 1601, was elected from Westminster school, a student of Christ Church, in 1574. He was a man of genius and learning, well read in divinity and history. In 1605 he published, an answer to a treatise concerning the cross in baptism, which was

esteemed by most judges in that age. He left behind him in MS. a Discourse on the Antiquity of the University of Oxford. This has been since printed. He died and was buried in the divinity chapel of Christ Church, 1632.

In the church and chancel are some curious monumental inscriptions, of very ancient dates, many of them nearly illegible. At the east end of the north aisle, joining to the body of the church, is a raised monument of white marble, on which lies the effigy of a man, armed with a coat of mail, his surcoat girded round him, and a collar of S. S. about his neck ; at his head, which is supported by a cushion, is an helmet, and at his feet a lion couchant. There is no inscription ; but it is supposed to be the monument of one of the family of Trussel.

In the vestry, on the north side of the chancel, is a mural monument, upon a chest of freestone, and on a gilt tablet the following curious inscription :

Robert Saunders the seconde sone of Thomas Saunders, of Sybber-toft lyeth here buried,

To Margaret Staunton the heyre of Thomas Staunton he was fyrste married ;

Which Margret beyng dead, Joyse Goodwin he tooke to wyfe,

The xiii. day of November ao. xv<sup>o</sup>. xlix. he departed thys lyfe ;

And restethe at God's pleasure tyll the daye of perfection ;

God sende us and hym then a joyful resurrection. Amen.

Dr. Richard Gardiner gave to this parish a quartern of land, the rent of which to be given one year towards putting out a boy apprentice, and the other year to be distributed amongst such widows as were born in the town.—John Steer and William Muscotte gave each of them half an acre of meadow ground for the benefit of the poor of Floore, for ever.—Gregory Knight left the sum of five pounds, the interest of which is given, by the churchwardens, to the poor.

## GAYTON.

Gayton is a pleasant village, about five miles from Northampton. It has Milton on the east, Thorp north, Pattishall west, and Blisworth and Tiffield south.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Virgin, and consists of a body, two aisles, and a chancel, leaded, with a porch on the south side, tiled. The steeple is built with a tower, wherein are six bells besides the saint's bell. On the north side of the chancel is a burying place parted off from it, as large as the chancel itself, wherein lie the family of Samwell.

A piece of ground, called the alms-ground, was long since given to the poor of this parish. Upon the inclosure of Gayton field, in 1600, it was agreed

by the general consent of the inhabitants, to set apart ten acres, on the east side of the alms-ground, in lieu of the like number of acres dispersed in several parts of the same field, which before that time were used as town ground.

The parsonage-house being in a very ruinous and dilapidated state, the late rector, Mr. Hunter, rebuilt it at his own expense.

### GRENDON

Is a small village about eight miles from Northampton. It is bounded on the east by Bozeat, on the north by Strixton, on the west by Whiston, and on the south by Castle-Ashby and Yardley.

The church is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, with pinnacles at each corner, in which are five bells.

### GUILSBOROUGH

Is a remarkably pleasant village, about six miles from Northampton. In Domesday-book named Gisleburg, in the reign of Henry II, Gildesborn, and in other records, Gildesburch. It is bounded on the east by Creaton, on the north by Naseby, by West-Haddon on the west, and on the south by Ravens-

thorpe. Here are two brooks, one of which rising in Camfield's-lodge field, from a very quick spring, and parting Guilsborough on the east from Hollo-well, goes on to Northampton : the other dividing this Lordship on the south from Ravensthorpe, joins the former brook in Teeton field.

Here is the seat of William Zouch Lucas Ward, Esq. called Guilsborough Hall ; it is a large mansion, and, from its being seated on an eminence, has a very conspicuous appearance.

Upon the top of the hill on which the town is situate, are large remains of a Roman encampment, supposed to have been raised by Ostorius, the Pro-prætor under the Emperor Claudius. The form of it, like the more common Roman camps, is an ob-long square ; the shorter sides running from north to south. It seems to have been fenced with a broad, deep, single entrenchment. The agger of this fortification is still visible ; and, as far as could be judged, from pacing over an uneven, broken ground, the longest parallel is between five and six hundred feet, the shortest about three hundred. The area included, it is about eighteen acres. It is called the Burrows or Borough-hill, from which appellation, the town is supposed to have received its name.

The church, dedicated to Etheldred the virgin,

consists of a body, two aisles, a chancel, with north and south porches, all leaded. At the west end, on a plain coped tower, having four bells in it, is raised an octagon spire.

In Guilsborough is a Free Grammar School, founded by the late Sir John Langham, of Cottesbrook, Bart. The school is free for the youth of Guilsborough, Cottesbrook, Thurnby, Cold-Ashby, or any other place within four miles next adjoining. The government is in a certain number of trustees, who when reduced to four, are to nominate others. Here is also a Writing School, endowed with an annual salary of about £14, arising from the interest of £200, left many years since, and for this purpose augmented by a subscription of the principal inhabitants.

The hamlet of Hollowell also belongs to the parish of Guilsborough, and likewise the small hamlet of Nortoft, in Doomsday-book named Nortot, and in later records Northtoft. — The following curious bequest to this parish, has been copied from Bridges's Northamptonshire :

John Campernon, Esq. formerly Lord of Coton, a hamlet lying in this hundred, but in Ravensthorpe parish, in the hundred of Newbottle, gave a half yard land in his lordship of Coton under Gildesburgh, to

the vicar of Guilsborough, for the time being, and his successors for ever. But not being given to the alterage of the church, the prior of St. John of Jerusalem, patron of the living, entered upon the said half yard land, and kept possession of it. Whereupon the said John Campernon, gave one other half yard land next adjoining to the former, to the alterage of the said church, on condition that the vicar and his successors should, every Sunday, pray for him in the following words :—" Ye shall pray for the soule of Mr. John Campernon, sometime Lord of Coton, and all his successors souls, who gave to the alterage of this church one half yard land." And if his name should not be mentioned in the bead-roll once in three Sundays, the Lord of Coton should peaceably enter upon and possess the said land.

## HACKLETON,

In Doomsday-book called Hachelintone, and in some later records Hakelton, is an hamlet, belonging to Piddington, lying on the London road, between Northampton and Horton.

The present possessor of the manors of Hackleton and Piddington, is Thomas Mercer, Esq. who has here a very good mansion-house.

## EAST-HADDON,

A village about eight miles from Northampton ; so called to distinguish it from West-Haddon. It is in Guilsborough hundred ; in Domesday-book is named Eddone and Hadone, and is bounded on the east by Holdenby, on the north by Ravensthorpe, by Long Buckby on the west, and on the south by Brington. Here is the seat of W. Sawbridge, Esq.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and consists of a body, south aisle, and chancel, leaded, with a large south porch, over which was a room, now stopped up. At the west end is a low tower, in which are five bells, cast in 1621.

## WEST-HADDON

Is a large village about twelve miles from Northampton, and in Domesday-book called Hadone, Ecdone, and Eddone, so named to distinguish it from East-Haddon. It has Guilsborough on the east, Winwick north, on the west Crick, and Long-Buckby on the south. Here are two brooks, one of which bounds the Lordship, and divides it from Guilsborough ; the other parting West-Haddon from Buckby, joins the Nine at Heyford. On this brook was formerly a mill, taken down some years ago.

The fields are well watered with springs, of which the most considerable are Nenmore springs, supposed, by the neighbouring inhabitants, to be one of the sources of the Nen or Nine, and Blackwell spring, which rises from five heads.

In West-Haddon field was an eminence called Ostor Hill, now cut away. Under it, according to report, were buried several officers, who fell in battle. At their interment they stuck a spear into the ground, and to erect a monument, raised up the earth even with the head of the spear. Such is the common tradition ; and it is inferred from it, that this hill is an ancient tumulus of Publius Ostorius, the celebrated Roman Proprætor under the Emperor Claudius. It is evident he died in Britain, worn out with cares and the fatigues of war. Neither the exact place of his death or his burial are recorded in history ; but there is no place more probable than this, being in the neighbourhood of the great military works at Daventry and Guilsborough, supposed to have been of his erection. And the memory of it seems sufficiently preserved by the name itself, by its vicinity to these encampments, and the confused remains of an obscure tradition.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a body, north and south aisles, chancel, and south

porch, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower in which are five bells. On this tower was anciently a pyramidal steeple, which falling to decay, was taken down in 1648. At the Upper end of the south aisle, is a bason for holy water. The roof of the church is high and well wrought.

In the church-yard was an altar monument, one side of which contained the following curious inscription :—

Here lyeth honest Grigory,  
Which was a true friend to the Ministry ;  
And the soul's true friend for eternity,  
And one of the best of fathers to his ability ;  
Hee studded the true form of Christianity,  
The which he hoped would abound to posterity.

“Grigory Palmer, Minister of West-Haddon 52 years and odd months, it being the place of his Nativity ; in which parish he first received his breath, and also ended his last the 11th day of June, 1693. Hee being 85 years, 5 months, and odd days old.”

It was formerly a custom here to strew the pews with straw from Christmas to Candlemas.

John Cosby, of this town, left by will one yard land, and homestead belonging to it, to erect a free school for teaching the children of the town to read, write, and cast accounts.

Mr. Jacob Lucas, of London, gave £30, Mr. Edward Burnham, £10, and a certain maiden woman of the town, £5, the joint interest of which sums is employed in putting out poor children apprentices.

## HARDINGSTONE.

About one mile from Northampton is the romantic village of Hardingstone, called in Doomsday-book Hardingsthorpe, and in later records Hardingsthorn. It is pleasantly seated on the brow of a hill, commanding some beautiful and extensive views of Northampton, and a vast tract of the surrounding country for a considerable distance, and overlooking the fine plantations and meadows which adjoin it, through which the river Nine winds its various gentle courses. It is bounded on the east by Houghton-Magna, on the north by the river, on the west by Wootton and Rothersthorpe, and on the south by Preston and Wootton. From the very healthful and pleasant situation of this village, as well as its being in the immediate vicinity of Northampton, it contains some neat houses, occupied by genteel families, particularly one lately erected by the Rev. Ashton Wade, fitted up in the

Gothic style ; and though the house is not very extensive, it contains several elegant and superb apartments, not to be surpassed by any in the neighbourhood ; they are ornamented with several windows of beautiful painted glass.

About half a mile from the village, surrounded by a large park and fine plantations, is Delapre Abbey, the seat of Edward Bouverie, Esq. the present proprietor and owner of the estate. It is a large modern edifice of varied architecture ; raised from the ruins, and on the site of the Abbey de Pratis, de la Pre, a house of Cluniac nuns, founded by Simon de St. Liz, the younger Earl of Northampton. It had in it ten nuns at the time of the dissolution. The last abbess, Clementina Stokes, governed it thirty years, and obtained the king's charter for the continuance of her convent ; but, fearing to incur the displeasure of the tyrant, resigned it into the hands of Dr. London, the king's commissioner, and obtained from him the character of "a gudde agyd woman ; of her howse being in a gudde state," and, what was more substantial, a pension of £40 per annum. It was endowed, with the churches of Barton, Doddington, and Fotheringay, with large possessions in Hardingstone, and

certain other small benefactions in Extune, Welcume-stowe, Walebec, and Northampton.

In the thirty-fourth year of the reign of Henry VIII, this monastery, with the demesne lands belonging to it in Hardingstone and the two Cottons, were granted to John Mershe. In the forty-third of Queen Elizabeth, Bartholomew Tate, E-q. died possessed of them, and was succeeded by William Tate, his son. Zouch Tate, the son and successor of Sir William Tate, was chosen to serve in parliament for Northampton, in 1640. He took the covenant and became a zealous enemy to the royal cause. In 1644 he first moved the House of Commons, that no member of parliament, should enjoy any office, civil or military, during the war; and this was afterwards passed into an ordinance, called the Self-denying Ordinance.

In the thirty-eighth year of Henry VI, in the meadows by the river, and in Hardingstone field, was fought, what our historians usually call the battle of Northampton, in which the Duke of Buckingham, with other noblemen, were killed, and the king taken prisoner. Many of the slain were buried in the convent of Delapre, and at St. John's hospital, in Northampton.

Near the south-western corner of the park, on an ascent, by the side of the London road, somewhat more than half a mile from Northampton, stands Queen's cross, one of the pledges of affection borne by Edward I, to his beloved queen Eleanor; who, when her husband was wounded by a Moor, in his expedition to the Holy Land, 1272, she sucked the venom out of the wound, by which Edward was providentially cured, and she escaped unhurt. The queen died at Herdley, Lincolnshire, Nov. 29, 1290. The body was carried for interment to Westminster Abbey, and at every place where the procession rested, king Edward caused one of these pillars or crosses to be erected. It is divided into three stories or towers. The first of an octagonal form, is fourteen feet in height. Against four of the sides alternately, on two separate escutcheons, are the arms of Castile and Leon, and of the county of Ponthieu, in Picardy. Under the arms, in high relief, is a book open, and lying on a kind of desk. On the four other sides are two distinct shields, on one of which are the arms of England, and in the other alternately the arms of Castile and Leon, and those of the county of Ponthieu. The second story of a like shape with the former, is twelve feet in height. In every other side, within a nich, is a

female figure, crowned, about six feet high, with a canopy over its head, and supported by two Gothic pillars. The upper tower is eight feet in height, and has only four sides, facing the four cardinal points of the compass. On each of these sides is a sun-dial, put up in 1712, with an inscription upon it as follows :—

On the East, AB ORTV SOLIS  
 South, LAVDATVR DOMINVS  
 West, VSQVE AD OCCASVM  
 North, AMEN. MDCCXII.

The top is mounted with a cross, three feet in height, and added when the whole was repaired, by the order of the Bench of Justices, in 1713.

The ascent to the cross is with seven steps.

On the south side of the cross is a small white stone, on which is the following inscription :—

Rursus emendat : et restaurat  
 Anno { Georgii III. Regis 2  
       { Domini : 1762

*N. Bayliss.*

On the western side of the lowest story, and fronting the road, are the arms of Great Britain, carved in stone, with the following inscription beneath them, on a square tablet of white marble :—

In perpetuam Amoris conjugalis memoriam,  
 Hoc Eleanorae Regina Monumentum,  
 Vetustate pene collapsum, restaurari voluit,  
 Honorabilis Justiciariorum Caetus  
 Comitatus Northamptoniae  
 MDCCXIII.  
 Anno illo felicissimo  
 In quo ANNA  
 Grande Britanniae suae Decus,  
 Potentissima Oppressorum Vindex,  
 Pacis Belliq ; Arbitra,  
 Post Germaniam liberatam,  
 Belgiam presidiiis munitam,  
 Gallos plus vice decima profligatos  
 Suis Sociorumq ; armis,  
 Vincendi modum statuit ;  
 Et Europae in libertatem vindicatae,  
 PACEM restituit

Crosses were also built to her memory,  
 at Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Geddington,  
 Stony-Stratford, Dunstable, St. Albans, Waltham,  
 London and Westminster, upon the places where  
 her hearse rested. Near the cross several Roman  
 coins, and particularly one of Nero, in silver, have  
 been found in ploughing.

In this parish also is the military work termed  
 Huntsborough, but more generally called Dane's  
 Camp, situate about a mile to the south-west  
 of Northampton. It is pleasantly seated upon a  
 high hill which overlooks and commands the neigh-  
 bouring country. The figure is rather oval than

circular. It is surrounded with a single ditch, and a double bank ; the outer one very little raised, and the inner one rising upon the borders of the area, which contains upwards of an acre of ground. The ditch is about twelve feet wide, and twenty feet deep. It seems to have had only one entrance, towards the south. The passages at present cross it from east to west, and from north to south. It is supposed to have been a summer camp, raised by a party of Danes, who supported themselves by plunder, and infested these parts about the year 921. It is generally believed to have been pitched at the period when Towcester was built, by King Edward the elder, or at least a few years before it. It has neither the usual form of a Roman camp, nor the manner of the entrance ; and wants besides the convenience of water, which the Romans were particularly careful to secure. The camps of the Saxons were generally larger, not so circular, nor single trenched ; and supposing it to have been raised by the Saxons, a more probable account could not be given of it, than that it was made to secure the corn-fields from the pillages of the Danes. Camden mentions a tradition that it was raised in the time of the Baron's wars, when they laid siege to King John in Northampton. But it is too remote to have

been of use to them in battering down the walls with their greater engines, and much less so for their slighter instruments ; and lies on the wrong side the river either for undermining or an assault : this opinion therefore appears improbable.

There are likewise two hamlets in this parish, called Cotton-End and Far-Cotton, lying on the south side of the river, at the end of the bridge adjoining to Northampton.

In the hamlet of Far-Cotton was formerly the hospital of St. Leonard, for the maintenance of a master, and leprous brethren and sisters. It was founded by William the Conqueror ; and under the kings, his successors, the mayor and burgesses of Northampton were patrons. Within the district of the hospital was a chapel, in which were administered all the rites of a parochial church to the inhabitants residing in the said district. Upon the site of it stood a farm house, called St. Leonard's farm, which is now down.

The church of Hardingstone is dedicated to St. Edmund, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, gallery, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are five bells.

In this church are several handsome monuments, commemorative of the Herveys, who formerly resided in the parish, having a mansion-house in Far-

Cotton, now destroyed. In this village, on the 26th of February, 1713, was born the amiable and pious James Hervey, author of the *Meditations*, &c. &c. whose baptismal register appears in the parish book, in the following words : “ *James, son of William Hervey, rector of Collingtree, was baptised March 7th, 1713.* There are several other monuments to the memory of the family of *Tates*, formerly of *Delapre*; and some very neat modern ones, lately erected in different parts of the church, and on the south side of the chancel is a small neat white marble, recently put up, on which is inscribed as follows :—

Sacred to the memory of  
The Hon. EDWARD BOUVERIE;  
Who departed this life  
On the 3d of September, 1810,  
In the 72d year of his age.

In the year 1281, the vicar of Hardingstone claimed offerings and tythes of the inhabitants, residing in the liberty of St. Leonard, and referred his cause to the decision of the Bishop of Lincoln. But it appearing upon examination, that the said inhabitants, from time immemorial attended divine worship in the chapel of St. Leonard, and had the offices of baptism and sepulture performed by the chaplain officiating therein; the Bishop gave judgment that

the tythes and offerings, from the inhabitants within the limits of the hospital, were due to the vicar of the church of Hardingstone.

According to the account given in Bridges's Northamptonshire, a number of benefactions have been, at different times, left to this parish, viz. :—

Mr. Wadham, of Delapre, gave annually £1 6s. out of a farm at Collingtree, to the poor.—John Latimer gave the increase of £6 13s. 4d.—Mr. Stephen Hervey citizen and merchant of London, gave £40, the interest to apprentice poor children.—Mr. Robert Green, of Cotton-End, gave £10, the interest thereof to the poor annually.—Zouch Tate, of Delapre, Esq. gave £30, ordering with the interest thereof to apprentice poor children.—Stephen Miles of Milton, gave £3, the interest to the poor annually.—Richard Hervey, of Morton-Morrel, Esq. son and heir of Sir Stephen Hervey, gave £10, the interest annually to apprentice poor children.—Mr. John Green, of this parish, gave £5, the increase annually to be given to twelve poor people, especially widows, on St. John's and Christmas day.—Mr. Nicholas Rothwell and Frances his wife, gave £100, the interest thereof to apprentice poor children.

## HARLESTONE

Is a very pleasant village, about four miles west of Northampton. It has Dallington and Brampton on the east, Holdenby north, Brington on the west, and on the south Harpole and Duston. In Domesday-book it is named Herolvestone, in common pronunciation Halson. Here is the seat of Robert Andrew, Esq. the proprietor of the estate ; it is an elegant building, lately erected, situate in a fine park, ornamented with plantations, pieces of water, and other improvements, which evince both the spirit and taste of its present possessor. Here is also a beautiful pheasantry, well stocked with birds of various descriptions.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a body, north and south aisles, chancel, and south porch, all leaded. At the west end is a tower-built steeple, in which are six bells.

At a small distance is Newbottle wood, near which are the marks of an ancient building, with several ruinous walks leading to it. According to the tradition of the village, it was formerly a religious cell ; but more probably some old manor-house. On a place called Dive's-heath, is the remains of a fortification, where human skulls and bones have often been dug up. Harlestone lordship is well sup-

plied with springs, of which, one in a close adjoining to the church, and another called Holm spring are mineral. A brook, which has its rise in Stanwell and Blackwell, two springs in the common field, passes through the town, and joining another brook, on the east side the field, falls into Kingsthorpe water.

Harlestone is famous for its stone quarries of great antiquity and note in this part of the county. The hollows of the old delves are large; and the town's name, is supposed to imply the antiquity of the quarry. Halston or Harlestone, for thus it is anciently written, derives itself from the Saxon word harle, to draw, and stane a stone, a name alluding to the business of the quarries, then, perhaps, the principal employ of the place. Besides the common stone for building, here is a fine blue ragg; the larger pieces of which are used for tomb stones, the smaller for pavement of rooms.

On the heath, near to the town, races were formerly held. The corporation of Northampton, by deed, bearing date 16th Jan. 1632, in consideration of the sum of two hundred pounds, paid by William Lord Spencer, and other gentlemen of the county, obliged themselves to provide yearly a gilt silver cup and cover, of the value of £14 13s. 4d. to

be run for on Thursday in Easter week yearly : with covenant, that upon notice given on the Friday in the race week, that they will return the money within the year following, then they shall not be obliged to provide the said cup any longer. These races are now discontinued.

### HARPOLE,

In Doomsday-book named Horpol, is about four miles from Northampton, and is bounded by Duston and Upton on the east, on the north by Harlestone, by Heyford and Newbottle on the west, and by Kissingbury on the south.

Harpole is a low situation, upon a clayey soil, with a mixture of gravel, having a narrow stone causeway, from all parts of the town leading to the church.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, south porch and chancel, all leaded. At the west end is a low plain coped tower, having a pinnacle at each corner, and containing four bells. At the upper end of the north aisle is a chauntry, and beyond it is the vestry. In the north wall of the chauntry are two old low arches ; but the church does not contain any thing worthy of notice.

## HEYFORD.

Heyford.—Of this name are two adjoining villages, in Domesday-book named simply Heiforde, afterwards called Great and Little Heyford, and now more usually distinguished by the names of Nether-Heyford and Upper-Heyford.

## NETHER-HEYFORD

Is about seven miles from Northampton, on the river Nine, and is bounded on the east by Harpole and Bugbrook, on the north by Floore, by Weedon on the west, and on the south by Stowe. The Nine divides it from Floore ; and a brook, called Horestone, arising from springs in Farthingstone, Cold-Higham and Pattishall Lordships, divides it in part from Bugbrook and afterwards falls into the Nine.

In 1699, in Horestone-meadow, at Nether-Heyford, about half a mile eastward of the Watling-street, was discovered a very beautiful tessalated pavement, composed of square bricks or tiles, somewhat bigger than common dice, artificially stained with colours, white, yellow, red, and blue, as smooth as polished marble, and disposed into various regular figures with great exactness. It lay covered with mould and rubbish, in a part of the meadow

which is every year overflowed with land-floods. By what was found of the south side of the pavement, it appeared to have been fifteen feet long from east to west; the extent from north to south could not be ascertained, as the discovery did not reach far enough. The whole appeared to have been a square. When first uncovered it would bear walking on as well as a stone floor; but being exposed to the weather and night dews, the cement became relaxed, and the squares were easily separable. It is supposed to have been the floor of a square room in some house or other building, of a circular figure, and about twenty yards in diameter. The room that had this floor was in the southern part of the structure. In the western and northern parts were several lesser rooms or cells, about ten feet in length and four broad. Some of these rooms were floored with a firm plaister of lime mortar, drawn upon pebbles fixed in lime. The sides of the floors were painted with three strait lines of a red, yellow, and green colour. These colours were so very fresh and lively, that when the floors were first uncovered, the strokes of the hairs of the painting brush were plainly visible. In these apartments were found various fragments of antique earthen vessels. One appeared to have been part of a patera, and the other were the remains

of urns. There was also found an antique hammer head. It is conjectured this building was the manor-house of some eminent Roman, and that some of his family had been buried in it.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, consists of a body, north and south aisles, south porch, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is a low plain coped tower, in which are four bells. Round the tenor is inscribed, in Gothic capitals : *Thomas Morgan gave mee to the church of Heyford, frank and free.*

Mr. William Bliss, late of Southwark, wine-cooper, born in this parish, founded here a free-school, and endowed with a salary of about £15 a year, the school is free for the children of Upper and Nether-Heyford, and for all of the name of Bliss within five miles.

## HOLDENBY.

Holdenby is about six miles from Northampton, and hath Church-Brampton on the east, Spratton, from which it is divided by a small brook, on the north, on the west East-Haddon, and Althorp and Harlestone on the south. In Domesday-book it is written Aldeneshi, in later records Haldenby, and in common pronounciation now called Holmby. By

a survey of the Lordship, made in 1587, it contained seventeen hundred and eighty-nine acres ; of which six hundred and six were laid out in the park, site of the manor-house, gardens, orchards, and pastures about it. Holdenby is famous for its ancient manor-house, a very noble and magnificent structure, built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir Christopher Hatton, as he himself expressed it, for the last and greatest monument of his youth. Some idea may be formed of the beauty and magnificence of this building, by the following description of it, given by Norden : “ In the hall thare are raised three peramides, very high, standing insteade of a shryne, the midst whearof ascendeth into the roofe of the hall, the other two equal with the syde walls of same hall, on which are depainted the armes of all the gentlemen of the same shire, and of all the noblemen of this land. The situation of the same house is very pleasantlie contrived, mountinge on a hill environed with most ample and large fields and goodly pastures, manie young groves newly planted, both pleasant and profitable ; fishe-ponds well replenished, a park adjoyninge of fallow deare, with a large warren of conyes, not farr from the house, lying between East-Haddon and Long-Bugbye. Aboute the house are greate stores of hares, and above the rest is

especially to be noated, with what industrie and toyle of man, the garden hath been raised, levelled, and formed out of a most craggey and unprofitable ground, now framed a most pleasante, sweete and princely place, with divers walks, manie ascendings and descendings, replenished also with manie delightful trees of fruite, artificially composed arbors, and a destilling-house on the west end of the same garden, over which is a ponde of water, brought by conduit pypes out of the feyld adjoyninge on the west, a quarter of a myle from the same house. To conclude, the state of the same house is such, and so beautifull, that it may well delight a prince."

This fine edifice afterwards devolved to the crown, and was for sometime a palace, and afterwards a prison for the unfortunate monarch Charles the First, in the year 1646 ; from whence, after a confinement of some months, he was forcibly carried away to the army. Whilst he remained here, he went often to Lord Vaux's, at Boughton, and amused himself with the exercise of bowling. Of this structure, which we apprehend was demolished by order of the parliament after the death of the king, only some gateways, and fragments of the pyramids are now remaining. The front of the house appears

to have been to the east, and the gardens to have ran southward down the hill.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is a low embattled tower, in which were formerly five bells, but now only two. The church is divided from the chancel by a carved screen, of very good workmanship. On each side of the chancel are six stalls, like those of a collegiate church. The front is an octagon, with a coat of arms painted on each side. In the west window of the south aisle, is some painted glass, removed from the east window.

### HORTON.

Horton is a small pleasant village, about seven miles from Northampton, bounded on the east by Ravenstone, in the county of Buckingham, on the north by Brayfield, on the west by Hackleton, and Piddington, and on the south-west by Hartwell.

Sir Robert Gunning, Bart. has here a very neat seat and gardens. This house is a large structure, with a fine front towards the east; it is seated in a park, abounding with noble forest trees, and enlivened with a broad piece of water. This estate has been successively possessed by the Salisburys,

Parrs, Lanes, and Montagues, from whom it descended to the Earl of Halifax, who was succeeded by Lord Hinchingbroke, and he by the present proprietor.

The church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, consists of a body, south aisle, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are three bells. This church was repaired by the Earl of Halifax; and is now handsomely pewed with oak, and paved with free-stone. The chancel is divided from the body of the church by a wainscot screen, supported by fluted pilasters of the Ionic order.

This church contains several fine old monuments, erected to the memory of different families, viz. :—

Within the rails of the altar, on a large grey marble, lying upon the ground are three figures in brass; in the midst is a man in armour, with a sword hanging before him, and on each side of him a woman, in the habit of the times, viz. : in strait bodices, with sleeves coming down, and covering the back of their hands to their fingers; their gowns long and covering their feet, and laced one-third part from the bottom upwards: their head-dresses falling back upon their shoulders, like a short hood, with a cap behind, like the crown of a hat, with a girdle buckled at the waste, and the end of it falling to the ground.

Under the man's feet is a dog, and below is this inscription :—

*Prate pro Animabus Rogeri Salusbury Armigeri et Emme ac Anne uxorum ejus qui quidem Rogerus obiit penultima die mensis Decembris Anno Domini Millesimo CCCCLXXXII. quorum animabus propicietur Deus. Amen.*

Underneath were brasses for four children, which are now taken away.

Upon a square tomb of white marble, raised two feet six inches from the ground, are the figures of a man and a woman ; the man in his hair, with a large beard, reposing his head upon his helmet and gauntlets, and his feet upon a dog. The woman in a habit resembling those of the preceding monument, having a mantle clasped with a buckle; hanging down behind to her feet, and a bracelet round her neck ; her head lying on a pillow, and supported by two angels, lying under it on another pillow. Both their hands lifted up in a posture of prayer, and round the verge is this inscription in capitals, beginning at the head :—

*Here. lieth. Sir. William. Par. Knight. lat. Lord. Par. of. Horton. and. Lord. Chamberlene. to. the. Quines. Highness. Decesed. the. x. of. September. Anno. 1546.*

*Here. lieth. Marie. Dowghter. and. Coheires. of. John. Salsberi. Esquier. late. wif. to. Ser. William. Par. Lord. Par. of. Horton. Decesed. the. x. of July. A. 1555.*

On the north side, underneath, are five women, and on the south side, five men, two of them in the habit of pilgrims, and the other three resembling youths in a like dress, but without the staff.

Against the south wall of the chancel, is a monument of alabaster, whereon are represented in bas relief, the portraits of a man in armour, and of a woman praying, with books upon a desk before them : behind the man are two sons, and behind the woman are four daughters, praying ; with an inscription.

### HOUGHTON-MAGNA.

Houghton-Magna, or Great-Houghton, is a pleasant village, about two miles from Northampton. It is bounded on the east by Houghton-Parva, on the north by the river Nine, on the west by Hardingstone, and on the south by Preston and Brayfield.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Virgin, and consists of a body, two aisles, and chancel, leaded. In the midst stands an embattled tower, in which are five bells. On the south side of the tower is a

chauntry chapel, and on the south side the chancel three arches formerly used for confession. The north aisle extends the whole length of the chancel.

## HOUGHTON-PARVA.

Houghton-Parva, or Little Houghton, is about one mile from the former place. It is bounded on the east by Brayfield, on the north by the river Nine, and on the west and south by Houghton-Magna and Brayfield.

In this parish, on the bank of the river, is Clifford-hill. It is of a circular form, encompassed with a wide and deep ditch, and resembles the muniment, at Towcester, named Bury-hill, but is much larger. Around the top of it was formerly, as is reported, a mound of earth, which was pared off by William Ward, Esq. with a design to use it as a bowling-green. It is supposed to have been raised as a specula or watch-hill, for observing the motions of the enemy on the other side the Nine; or, perhaps, as a fortress to guard the ford, by which they usually passed the river in that part of it. There was formerly a ford below the hill, in that part of the river where it is divided into two streams; but it became unfrequented, and at length lost, upon the building

of Billing-bridge. There is also a hill now named the Cliff, not far from Brayfield, which possibly lay in or near the road that led down to the ford, from whence it took the name of Clifford. But, notwithstanding its present name, the Roman coins which have been found in paring off the hill, and in the neighbourhood, shew this to have been a Roman work. Amongst other remains of antiquity, in the north part of a furlong, called Tenyards, lying about two furlongs distant from the hill, Mr. Ward's servant, in 1717, cast up in ploughing, a gold medal, of Augustus, with a remarkable inscription. This hill overlooks and commands the country to a great distance on all sides, except towards the south, where other high hills interpose.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, consists of a body, south aisle, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is an antique embattled tower, in which are five bells. The tower is ornamented with several arches, supported with small pillars. The upper end of the aisle is parted off from the rest, and is called the vicar's chancel. It appears to be the chapel which the Lord of the manor had appropriated to the use of himself and his family.

Here is a school founded by one of the family of

Ward, for teaching eight boys of this parish, and four from Great-Houghton. The master's salary is the interest of two hundred pounds.

### KELMARSH

Is a small village, between Northampton and Market-Harborough; bounded on the east by Harrington, on the north by Oxendon, by Clipston on the west, and on the south by Maidwell. In this parish is Kelmarsh Hall, the seat of William Hanbury, Esq. M. P. It is a large mansion, consisting of a body and two wings, connected by offices. The pleasure grounds are pleasingly diversified with the contrasting effects of wood and water; and the house contains a very fine collection of paintings and pictures.

The church, dedicated to St. Dennis, consists of a body, north aisle, and chancel, leaded; with a square tower at the west end, containing four bells; on which is a pyramidal spire. It contains some fine old monuments to the memory of the Hanbury family.

### KINGSTHORPE.

Kingsthorpe, in Domesday-book named simply Thorp, is a large pleasant village, about one mile

north of Northampton, on the road to Leicester. It is bounded on the east by Moulton, on the north by Boughton, by the river Nine on the west, and on the south by Northampton. In the hollow way between the village and Northampton, is a rivulet which, from some neighbouring inclosures, is called Wall-bank; near which are nine springs, including that which feeds the rivulet, which lie in a row within half a mile, upon the side of the hill. In the town is a fine spring, named King's-well.

In this village is a very pleasant mansion, now occupied by Lady Cave.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel leaded; with a chauntry chapel at the east end of each aisle. At the west end is a spire, raised on an embattled tower, in which are five bells. The church and chancel are neatly pewed, the former with oak, at the expense of the late Lady Pritchard; who also new roofed the church, and repaired the lead-work. The church itself is a chapel (but enjoying all parochial rites) belonging to St. Peter's in Northampton; and therefore in all taxations is rated with that church, and has always had the same incumbents. In 1671, Mrs. Mary Reynolds, widow

of the Bishop of Norwich, gave five pieces of plate, to be used at the celebration of the Holy Communion.

In this church was formerly a chauntry, founded in the eleventh year of Edward IV, by John Bacon, and from him called Bacon's chauntry, to the intent that a priest might sing for ever at our Lady's altar.

There are also some curious old monuments erected to the memory of different families; and various sums of money have been left by individuals, to the poor of this parish.

At a small distance from the town, on the east side of the road which leads from Northampton, formerly stood an hospital, which was called the hospital of the Holy Trinity. It was founded in the year 1200, the second of King John, at the request of Peter the son of Adam de Northampton, and Henry the son of Peter, rector of Kingsthorpe, with the consent of the prior and convent of St. Andrew, in Northampton, who were at that time impropriators of the parish, and gave the house and ground belonging to it. It consisted principally of one large body, containing three rows of beds, for the use of the poor, the sick and the stranger; with two chapels adjoining. It was under the direction of one master, procurator, or prior, and two chaplains, unless one of these chaplains was

chosen procurator, and six assistants ; the right of visitation being reserved to the convent, in conjunction with the abbot of Sulby.

Here is a very pleasant bowling-green, much resorted to in summer.

### KISLINGBURY,

Is about five miles from Northampton, lying on the southern bank of the river Nine, and bounded on the east by Upton, on the north by Harpole, by Upper Heyford on the west, and on the south by Bugbrook and Rothersthorpe. Over the Nine is a bridge with a breast wall. On a cottage in the town, is a stone about four feet six inches from the ground, upon which is inscribed :—*May flood so high, 1636.*

The church, dedicated to St. Luke, consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the west, on an embattled tower, is a spire steeple of eight sides. In the tower are five bells, cast in 1659.

### LAMPORT

A pleasant village, on the road from Northampton to Harborough, about eight miles from the former place, is bounded on the east by Faxton, by

Maidwell on the north, by Cottesbrook on the west, and on the south by Brixworth.

Sir Justinian Isham, Bart. the present owner of the estate, has here an elegant seat, which has been in the possession of the family from the close of the sixteenth century. The front of the house, towards the road, was designed by John Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, covered with lead. At the west end is a low embattled tower, in which are four bells. On the north side the church is a chapel, or burial place, for the Ishams, abounding with numerous elegant monuments. In this parish is the small chapelry of Faxton, the church of which contains a fine monument to the memory of Sir Augustine Nicholes : it is composed of black and white marble, with an effigy, representing him in his judges robes, kneeling before a desk, on which is placed a book ; and on the right is a statue of justice, and on the left another of wisdom.

### MAIDWELL

Is a pleasant village about nine miles from Northampton, in which place is the seat of W. Buller, Esq.

In Maidwell were anciently two churches, one dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, to which the chapel of Kelmarsh was annexed, now standing; the other to St. Peter, long since destroyed, of which no remains are left.

The present church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, consists of a body, leaded, chancel, north and south porches, tiled. At the west end is a low broad tower, with a plain coping, in which are four bells. Near the church is a fine spring, named Maid-well, which is supposed to have given rise to the name of the town.

There are some very ancient monuments in this church, principally to the memory of the Haslewood family.

## MILTON.

About four miles from Northampton is the pleasant little village of Milton, formerly Mideltone. It is bounded on the east by Collingtree, by Wootton north, on the West by Rothersthorpe, and by Blisworth and Courtenhall on the south. A small brook, called indifferently Wootton or Milton brook, is a boundary to this parish on the north for almost two miles. This rivulet has its rise in Horton lordship, and passing by Piddington, Preston, Wootton,

Collingtree, and Milton, joins the Nine at Upton-mill.

The church, dedicated to the Holy Cross, consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is a pyramidal steeple of eight sides, having the corners jagged with small carved stones, and five bells in it, bearing date 1686. It appears to have been united to the rectory of Collingtree, and the presentations were made to the moiety of the two churches, till after the year, 1441.

Mrs. Elizabeth Watts, born in this town, gave a paten and chalice of silver, to be used at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

### MOULTON,

A large pleasant village, five miles from Northampton, is bounded on the north-east by Holcot, on the north by Pitsford, on the west by Boughton, and on the south and south-east by Overstone and Weston-Favell. In this parish is a place called Castle Hill, where foundations of stone have been discovered on digging, and there are some vestiges of a trench. There is also an artificial hill, exactly round, out of which flows a mineral water. There are two other hills, called Cross-hills.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul,

consists of a body, north and south aisles, chancel, north and south chancel, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, on which was formerly a small wooden spire, covered with lead, pulled down in the time of the Rebellion. In this tower, which has some remains of pinnacles at the corners, are five bells. There is a tradition that two of the bells were brought from St. Andrew's convent at Northampton, upon the dissolution of that house.

Thomas Loveday gave the interest of £100, for bread to be distributed to the poor on St. John's day. Robert Mills gave 20s. annually to twenty poor widows, and 6s. 8d for a sermon on St. Stephen's. — Line gave £4 per annum, to buy every quarter sixty groat loaves, to be given to the poor. There are also several other smaller charities.

### NASEBY.

About twelve miles from Northampton is the village of Naseby. It was formerly a market-town, a charter having been granted in the fifth year of the reign of King John. It stands upon an eminence, supposed to be the highest ground in the kingdom. No less than six springs rise in the village, from which the waters are collected and formed into ponds. Near to this village is Naseby Field, where the memorable battle was fought on the 14th of June, 1645, be-

tween King Charles the First and General Fairfax, in which the King's army was completely defeated. This was principally owing to his baggage being taken, containing letters to the Queen, which discovered his whole plan of operation; and through the precautions taken by the parliament forces, all that unhappy monarch's schemes were frustrated.— This being one of the most severe battles during the civil wars, the following account of it will not be uninteresting:—

The King, having taken Leicester, intended to have marched to London; but General Fairfax, who pursued him closely, having intercepted a packet of letters, was by them informed that the King expected a reinforcement of 2,000 men from Wales. The General availed himself of this circumstance, and the King, finding that if he continued his march, he should be in danger of having his rear cut off, resolved to give Fairfax battle. Both armies were drawn up to advantage near the village. The main body of the royalists was commanded by the King himself, the right wing by Prince Rupert, the left by Sir Marmaduke Langdale. Fairfax, seconded by Skippon, placed himself in the main body of the opposite army; Cromwell in the right wing; Ireton, Cromwell's son-in-law, in the left. The charge

was begun, with his usual celerity and success, by Prince Rupert. Though Ireton made stout resistance, and even after he was run through the thigh with a pike, still maintained the combat till he was taken prisoner, yet was that part of the army broken and pursued with precipitate fury by Rupert, who inconsiderately marched hastily forward, and summoned the train of artillery to surrender, with the offer of quarter. The carriages, which he ordered to be plundered, were guarded only by the militia of the county, these, upon the sight of the Princes forces coming up to them, fled precipitately towards Northampton, giving out that the King had obtained the victory.

Fairfax and Skippon displayed much valour, and well supported that reputation which they had acquired. Skippon being dangerously wounded, was desired by Fairfax to leave the field, but declared that he would remain there as long as one man maintained his ground. The infantry of the Parliament was broken and pressed upon by the King, till Fairfax, with great presence of mind brought up the reserve and renewed the combat. Meanwhile Cromwell having led on his troops to the attack of Langdale, overbore the force of the royalists, and by his prudence improved that advantage which he had

gained by his valour. Having pursued the enemy about a quarter of a mile, and detached some troops to prevent their rallying, he turned back on the King's infantry and threw them into the utmost confusion. One regiment alone preserved its order unbroken, though twice desperately assailed by Fairfax; and that general, excited by so steady a resistance, ordered Doyley, the captain of his life-guard, to give them a third charge in front, while he himself attacked them in the rear. The regiment was broken, Fairfax, with his own hands, killed an ensign and having seized the colours, gave them to a soldier to keep for him. The soldier afterwards boasting that he had won this trophy, was reproved by Doyley, who had seen the action. "Let him retain that honour," said Fairfax, "I have to day acquired enough besides!" Prince Rupert, sensible too late of his error, left the fruitless attack on the enemy's artillery and joined the King, whose infantry was now totally discomfited. The King exhorted his body of cavalry not to despair, and cried aloud to them, "One charge more, and we recover the day." But the disadvantages under which they laboured were too evident and they could not be induced to renew the combat. Charles was obliged to quit the field, and leave the victory to the enemy.

His Majesty's forces in marching and counter-marching were very much embarrassed by the bushes in Clipston and Naseby fields ; and Prince Rupert, in retreating from the enemy's cannon, along the hedges of Sulby inclosure, on the west side of the field of battle, was severely galled by Okey's dragoons, who had lined those hedges, but he came too late to retrieve the confused state of the King's army. The left wing being thus broken and disordered, the army retreated towards Leicester ; the conquerors fiercely pursuing them, taking in Clipston field one of the King's coaches, and killing, besides many men, several women of genteel figure, whose coaches were overturned in their hasty flight. The slain, on the side of the Parliament, exceeded those on the side of the King ; they lost above 1000 men, he not more than 800. But Fairfax made above 500 officers prisoners, and 4000 private men ; took all the King's artillery and ammunition, and totally dispersed his infantry, so that scarce any victory could be more complete than that which he obtained.

The field of Naseby retains no marks of the fight at present, except a few holes, where it is supposed the men and horses were promiscuously buried. In one of the rooms of an inn near the spot, used to be

a series of pictures, representing the manœuvres of both armies on that perilous day. They served to impress the mind of the traveller with the particulars of this memorable battle.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and consists of a body, two aisles, and a chancel, leaded. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are five bells, with a pyramidal spire, of which the lower part is only now standing.

Mrs. Dorothy Ashby gave £10 to purchase a communion chalice and paten.

### OVERSTONE

Is a small village, about five miles from Northampton; bounded by Mear's-Ashby, Moulton, and Great Billing.—In this village is Overstone Hall, the seat of J. Kipling, Esq. its present possessor, who purchased it of the late Lord Brownlow. It is a very handsome building, bounded by a beautiful park, and ornamented with some fine pieces of water. A new and very neat church has been lately built here, at the sole expense of Mr. Kipling; it was finished in the year 1804; in the chancel is a handsome painted window, on which is inscribed:—*Dua redit nescitil heram. MDCCCIV.*

## PIDDINGTON

Is a small village about five miles from Northampton; in Domesday-book named Pidentone. It is bounded on the east by Horton, on the south by Preston, and on the west and south by Quinton.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a body, north and south aisles, leaved, chancel and south porch, tiled. At the west end is a low spire, raised on an octagonal turret, in which are six bells.

## PITSFORD

Is a pleasant village about five miles north of Northampton; in Domesday-book named Pidesford and Pitesford. It is bounded on the east by Moulton, by Brixworth on the north, on the west by Chapel-Brampton, and on the south by Boughton. Its situation is dry and sandy, yet remarkably abounding with springs. According to Mr. Morton, here are not less than three hundred, with five and twenty small rills issuing from little valleys, which open into larger, with several springs upon the sides of them.

In this parish is a sepulchral tumulus, known by the name of Longman's-hill; and on a heath near the village is a small encampment, called Barrow

Dykes, the circumvallation of which was anciently of a square form ; but only two sides remain, one of which is about 80 yards in length. In this parish is Pitsford Hall, a good modern building, consisting of a centre and two wings ; it is at present, and has been for some years, occupied by Colonel Corbet.

The church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded, with a porch on the south side, tiled. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which are five bells ; the first was cast in 1632, and the other four in 1698.

### PRESTON

Is a very small village, about four miles south of Northampton, commonly called Preston-Deanery from its having given name to the Deanery of Preston in the ecclesiastical division of the county. In this parish, adjoining to Salcey forest, is a wood called Preston Park, where was formerly an ancient manor-house, the residence of the families of Hartwell, and Edmonds, which has been long since demolished ; but there is a small neat mansion, now in the occupation of Charles Newman, Esq.

Sir Clement Edmonds, who purchased the manor of Preston of the family of Hartwell, was the son of

Sir Thomas Edmonds, comptroller of the household to Queen Elizabeth. He was born in Shropshire, and educated in All Soul's College, Oxford, of which he was elected fellow in 1590. In the reign of James I, he was chosen member of parliament for the University. He was a person of general learning, and of good judgment in literary and political affairs.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, consists of a body, leaded, and chancel, tiled. At the west end is an embattled tower, in which is one bell. The old register is lost, and that now in use begins in 1678. In the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James, this church lay in a very ruinous condition; Jasper Hartwell, and Sir Robert Hartwell his son, having, as it is said, sold the lead and bells, pulled down the body, and converted it to a profane use. It was afterwards repaired by Charles Edmonds, Esq.

Within this church was formerly a chauntry chapel of St. Saviour, and an altar to the honour of St. Edmond. Both these were on the south side of the chancel.

This church, which is very small, contains a number of neat and ancient monuments, principally to the memory of the family of Edmonds; and a very

handsome one has lately been erected by Mr. Newman, to the memory of his son, who was unfortunately shipwrecked on Christmas eve, 1811, inscribed as follows:—

READER,

Within these consecrated Walls,

This Marble Tablet

(With Tribute that is due)

Is inscribed to the Memory of

JAMES NEWMAN NEWMAN, Esq. of the Royal Navy;

Captain of his Majesty's Ship "Hero,"

Of seventy-four Guns,

Wrecked on the XXIV Dec. MDCCCXI,

Upon the Hoak Sands, off the Texel Islands,

And every Soul on Board perished!!

He was the Son of Charles Newman, Esq.

Of Preston-Deanery, in the County of Northampton,

And of Esther his wife, who was

Niece of the late Sir John Langham, Bart. of the same  
County.

He has left an aged Father to lament the loss of a  
beloved Son,

In the prime of Life ;

An affectionate Wife to bewail the Death

Of an excellent Husband ;

And his Country to regret as they regard

The loss of a good and gallant Officer.

He was a Man amiable in the highest degree in Disposition,

And estimable in every Relation of Life.

QUINTON

Is about four miles from Northampton, bounded on the east by Preston and Piddington, on the north

by Wootton, on the west by Courtenhall, and on the south by Hartwell and Salcey Forest.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a body, south porch, and chancel, tiled ; but contains nothing worthy of notice.

### RAVENSTHORPE.

Ravensthorpe has Spratton on the east, Guilsborough north, West-Haddon on the west, and on the south, East-Haddon. A brook which rises in this field, called interchangeably Ravensthorpe and Haddon-brook, divides it from West-Haddon, bounds the lordship on the south, and joins another stream which flows to Northampton.

The church, dedicated to St. Dionis, or Dennis, consists of a body, north and south aisles, chancel, and south porch, leaded. At the west end is a tower steeple, in which are five bells, cast by Mr. Briant, of Hertford, hung by Mr. J. Over, of Rugby, and opened in June, 1810.

### RODE

Is about five miles from Northampton, on a rocky ground, and lying low it is well supplied with springs. It is bounded on the east by Ashton and Hartwell, on the north by Courtenhall, on the

west by Stoke-Bruerne and Blisworth, and on the south by Ashton.

The church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, consists of a body, leaded, and chancel, tiled, with a porch on the south side, leaded. In the middle stands a broad embattled tower, on which is a pyramid, covered with lead. In this tower are four bells. The porch and tower have marks of very ancient workmanship.

The annual sum of three pounds, arising from lands in this parish, long since given by an unknown person, and vested in certain feoffees, is reserved as a stock for the service of such of the inhabitants as fall into any accidental misfortune.

### ROTHERSTHORPE.

Rothersthorpe, in Domesday-book named simply Thorp, and in some later records Rerestrop and Reresthorp, and now generally called Thorp, is bounded on the east by Milton and Wootton, by Kislingbury on the north, on the west by Bugbrook, and by Gayton on the south. A small portion of ground, amounting to about four acres, which is entrenched round, is supposed to have been an ancient fortification. It is now called the Berry.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul,

consists of a body, with two aisles, and chancel, leaded. At the west end is a tower, covered with lead, in which are four bells.

### SPRATTON

Is a pleasant village, about seven miles from Northampton; in Domesday-book Spretone and Sprotone. It is bounded on the east by Brixworth, on the north by Creaton, on the west by Teeton, and on the south by Chapel-Brampton. There are in this parish nine hills, distinguished by name, with two rocks, affording a very different kind of stone, but both very useful for building. It is well watered with springs, one of which, named Moor's well, is medicinal. It is divided from Teeton and Brixworth by two brooks, which, meeting in the common field, at a place called Asplin's-hook, form one current, and pass on from thence to the Nine.—Here is a good mansion-house, at present the seat of Lord Viscount Althorp.

The church, dedicated to St. Luke, consists of a body, north and south aisles, chancel, and north and south porches, all leaded. At the west end is a pyramidal steeple of eight sides, in which are five bells, bearing date in 1685. In the south aisle is a

vacant place, where formerly stood the statue of St. Luke.

In a burying place, or chauntry chapel, on the north side of the church, and repaired at the expense of Mr. Chapman, of Newbottle, are two altar monuments, supposed to be raised for Sir John Swinsford and his wife. Upon one of them lies the figure of a knight in white marble, with the letters I.S. marked in several places of the girdle. At his feet lies a wild boar, which is also expressed in several escutcheons round the monument.

### STOWE

Is a very pleasant village, about nine miles from Northampton. This parish is called Stowe with the nine churches, from nine churches to which the lord of the manor had a right of presentation. It is divided into two towns, the one called Church Stowe and Great Stowe, and the other Little Stowe. There was here a seat, the manor house, which now belongs to the corporation of Clergymen's Sons. There is also a house, very pleasantly situated, occupied by the Rev. Mr. Crawley. Stowe has many very delightful and extensive prospects.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of a body, two aisles, and a chancel, embattled and

leaded. The aisles extend the whole length of the chancel which is divided from the church by an arch formed by two large pillars. On the south side is a small porch, covered with lead. The steeple is built with a tower, in which are four bells. In the church are a number of most beautiful monuments, particularly one to the memory of the Hon. Lady Elizabeth, fourth daughter and coheir of John Latimer, by the Lady Lucy Somerset, daughter of Henry Earl of Worcester. It is of an altar form, of curious black and white marble, and elegant workmanship. At the top lies a woman richly clad, on a pillow; at her feet is a griffin. This monument contains various inscriptions. It was erected by the lady in her life-time, as may be inferred from a memorandum in the parish register.

Against the north wall of the chancel is another elegant monument to the memory of Dr. Turner.

### UPTON,

Is a very small village, about two miles west of Northampton, bounded on the east by Duston, on the north by Harlestone, on the west by Harpole, and on the south divided from Rothersthorpe by the river Nine. Here is a good mansion, the seat of

T. S. W. Samwell, Esq. who has greatly improved the house and grounds. It is a large building, of brick and stone, partly ancient and partly modern, pleasantly situated, commanding a fine view to the south, and contains some good apartments, in which are many family and other portraits.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of a body and chancel, tiled. On the south side is a porch covered with stone, and at the west end a plain coped tower, with three bells in it. The church contains several monuments to the memory of the Knightly and Samwell families.

### WEEDON.

About eight miles from Northampton is the village of Weedon-Beck, formerly called Church-Weedon, and now generally called Weedon-Royal on account of the barracks and depot erected there within these few years. It has Nether-Heyford on the east, Dodford on the north, Everdon west, and Stowe and Farthingstone on the south.

The works of the depot commenced about the year 1805, and consist of barracks, originally intended for two troops of horse artillery, but are fitted up to contain, occasionally, 500 infantry; they are plain strong buildings of brick, erected in the form of a

square. Near them is a neat Hospital. Upon an eminence near the barracks is situated a truly elegant dwelling-house, built of white brick, consisting of a large building and two corresponding wings, for the officers of the ordnance department, which alone are said to have been erected at the expense of £18,000.

The store-houses, eight in number, are built four on each bank of an arm of the Grand Junction Canal (which runs by this place) with a proportionate number of work-shops for the artificers. The upper rooms of these store-houses are capable of containing, and fitted up for 200,000 stand of small arms, which are under the charge of a store-keeper. The lower rooms are appropriated for field artillery, and have in them at this time twenty-four brigades of six guns each, with all the necessary stores, ready to be issued for service at the shortest notice ; and are under the care of a field-train-commissary. At the extremity of the branch of the canal, in an inclosed square, completely detached from the other buildings, are situated four magazines for powder, one of which contains nearly 70,000 rounds of ammunition for the field pieces ; the other three are adapted for powder and small arms ammunition, and when filled will contain about 5,000 barrels each. Alternately is a magazine and traverse, of equal magnitude

with each other, filled with earth, to prevent extension of damage in case of explosion.

The town is in a state of enlargement and improvement, and contains several neat private dwelling-houses, as well as some uniform buildings, lately erected, for the residence of the officers, &c. of the depot.—The quantity of land purchased by Government for the depot is nearly 170 acres.

There are six small hills in this village, distinguished by name : one of which, called Whitewell-hill, affords a view of twenty spire steeples at once. Though no remains of Roman antiquity are now to be met with at Weedon, there is no doubt of its having been anciently a Roman station; as there are abundance of stations, and especially in the west of England, where the slightest traces of their having been such, are not now to be found. And it is certain that it was the chief seat of Wulphere, King of the Mercians.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, consists of a body, two aisles, chancel, and a porch on the south side, leaded. The steeple is built with a tower, in which are five bells, besides the saint's bell.

The church contains some plain monuments, and there have been several sums of money left by different persons, to charitable purposes.

## WESTON-FAVEL.

About two miles from Northampton, the distance of an agreeable walk, is the pleasant little village of Weston-Favel, which once boasted of three mansion-houses, belonging to the families of the Ekins, Holman, and Hervey, all of which are gone to decay. In this village lived and died the pious and learned James Hervey, author of the *Meditations* and other works.—He was instructed in the free grammar-school, at Northampton, where he made great progress in his studies, and in the year 1731, he was entered a student of Lincoln College, Oxford, where he took only the degree of bachelor of arts, and entered into holy orders. Being of a serious turn of mind, and filled with a deep sense of religion, he associated with pious people of every denomination, and his natural sweetness of temper recommended him to all who knew him. He did not, however, obtain any higher preferment than the curacy of Biddeford, till the death of his father, the Rev. Mr. S. Hervey, when he went to Cambridge and took his degree of Master of Arts, and entered on the family livings of Weston-Favel and Collingtree, near Northampton, of the annual value of £180.—He discharged his duties as a minister of the gospel, in such a manner as would have done honour to one

of the primitive fathers ; and his compassion to those in distress, will be long remembered by many persons, besides those of his parish. His health gradually declining, he fell into a lingering consumption, and died on Christmas day, in the year 1758.

Besides his *Meditations among the Tombs*, he also wrote *Reflections on a Flower Garden* ; a *Descant on Creation* ; *Contemplations on the Night and Starry Heavens* ; *Theron and Aspasio*, &c. The profits arising from the sale of his works, together with the principal part of his income, he converted, whilst living, to the use of the distressed.

The church of Weston (dedicated to St. Peter) is a very small building, consisting merely of a body and chancel, with a coped tower, containing five bells. The register begins 1549.

The interior of it is plain and unadorned. There are no stately monuments to attract the notice of the curious. The only thing to recommend it to the attention is, that within these walls the pious and charitable Hervey exercised his ministry, and that here his remains are deposited till the resurrection of the just. Near the communion table, within the rails of the altar, is a stone, void of decoration, on which is the following inscription :—

Here lie the Remains  
 of the Rev. James Hervey, A. M.  
 Late Rector of this Parish,  
 That very pious Man  
 And much admired Author,  
 Who died Dec. 25th, 1758.  
 In the 45th Year of his age.

Reader expect no more to make him known,  
 Vain the fond elegy and figured stone,  
 A name more lasting shall his writings give,  
 There view displayed his heavenly soul and live.

Sir John Holman, neatly wainscoted the chancel with oak. Over the altar is represented the Passover in needlework, by his lady; above it is inscribed: *Gloria Deo*, and below it *Weston-Favel, December, 1698*. Her maiden name was Jane Fawtry, and herself of Dutch extraction. Sir John was younger brother to George Holman, Esq. of Warksworth. His lady, by her will, left a close in this parish, called Furze close, to the use of the minister and the poor. It was usually set for about £7 per annum, whereof the minister has 20s. for preaching and administering the sacrament on Good Friday, and the rest is distributed the same day among the poor.

Mrs. Ekins, erected a school for the teaching a certain number of poor children to write and read, and settled a stipend of £5 per annum on the master. And further, in pursuance of the charitable incli-

nations of Gertrude, her daughter, she had made a settlement of £7 a year, for the putting out one apprentice ; of 16s. to the minister, for preaching yearly, on the thirtieth of November ; and of a certain quantity of bread, to be then distributed among the poorest of the people.

Mr. Robert Travell, clerk, gave the interest of £20 to be divided between the poor on St. Thomas's-day.

### WHISTON

Is a pleasant village, about six miles from Northampton. It was formerly named Wicetone, Wicentone, and Wichington ; and is bounded on the east by Castle-Ashby and Grendon, on the north by Earl's-Barton, from which it is divided by the river Nine, on the west by Cogenho, and on the south by Brayfield, Cogenho, and Denton. Within the limits of this parish is Place-house, now a carpenter's shop, but formerly a considerable mansion. There is a tradition in the neighbourhood that it was a seat of King John. Part of the stone was carried away to build the manor-house at Ecton.

Whiston is entitled to particular notice for its elegant and uniform church (dedicated to the Blessed

Virgin) which stands proudly elevated on the brow of a hill, embosomed in trees, and completely detached from any other buildings. It consists of a nave, two aisles, chancel, and western tower, the whole of which is built in one uniform style. The tower is handsome, and appropriately decorated with panelling, graduated buttresses, windows with tracery, and clustered pinnacles of four at each angle, with crockets, &c. In the third tier are the arms of Henry VIII, beneath a double arched window, with a square head. The nave is divided from the aisles by four arches, on each side, supported by clustered columns, with panelling, tracery, and shields in the spandrels; the south porch is similarly ornamented. Some interesting monuments are preserved within this shell of fine architecture. Bridges appears to have discovered an inscription among the fragments of painted glass in the windows, which states that the church was erected by Anthony Catesby, Esq. lord of the manor, Isabel, his wife, and John, their son, in the year 1534. This was a time when church architecture was approaching its dissolution; but this building does not display any marks of it, for the whole is in the true and almost best style of the Tudor age.

The pillars and arches that support the nave are small, but particularly beautiful ; over them, in the body of the church, is cut on the wood, *Grase behower Gyde* ; and against each of the pillars is an angel, holding an open book.

Upon a mural monument of marble, on the north side of the chancel, between two pillars of veined marble of the Ionic order, are the bustos of a man and woman, standing on a short pedestal. Underneath, on a square, in basso relievo, are two young women, the one kneeling, with her hands lifted up, and the other kneeling, with one hand upon her breast, and a book open in the other. Behind the first is a girl, with her hands lifted up, and a boy, holding a death's head, leaning on an infant in swadling clothes. Behind the two bustos is a long inscription, on black marble, to the memory of Sir John Catesby and eight of his succeeding heirs.

Over this monument is an escutcheon with the arms of Catesby impaling Samwell, with the crest of Catesby.

Against the north wall of the chancel, upon a monument of marble (erected 1810) is the following inscription :—

Sacred to the Memory of  
 The Hon. Edward Methuen Irby,  
 Sixth Son of  
 Frederick and Christian, Lord and Lady Boston,  
 An Ensign in the 3d Regt. of Foot Guards.  
 He was born March 21st, 1788 :  
 He was killed at the battle of Talavera, July 28th, 1809,  
 on the day of the splendid victory gained by  
 The British Arms.  
 As a son he was most exemplary and dutiful ;  
 As a brother kind and affectionate ;  
 As a friend sincere and faithful ;  
 To his God and King, most true ;  
 In his form graceful and elegant ;  
 In manners courteous and engaging ;  
 attached to, and indefatigable in his profession :  
 By his Regiment universally beloved, and as deeply lamented.  
 His conduct was such  
 As to obtain the high approbation of  
 His Sovereign  
 To whom he had formerly been  
 one of the Pages of Honour.  
 He was buried with his brave companions  
 Who fell in the field of battle.

## WOOTTON

Is about three miles south of Northampton, in  
 Domesday-book called Wetone and Witone. It is  
 bounded on the east and north by Preston and  
 Hardingstone, on the west by Rothersthorpe, and  
 on the south by Milton, Collingtree, Courtenhall,  
 and Quinton, from all which lordships it is divided  
 by a small brook, over which, in the road from

Northampton to Stony-Stratford, is a bridge of two arches, commonly called Wootton-bridge, but repaired by the inhabitants of Courtenhall, it being within that parish. In 1645, the Parliament army, in their march from Stony-Stratford, under the command of Fairfax, encamped, on the eleventh of June, in Wootton field, from whence they proceeded the next day to Kislingbury, and thence to Guilsborough and Naseby, where the battle was fought on the fourteenth of the same month

The church, dedicated to St. George the Martyr, consists of a body, north and south aisles, leaded, and chancel, tiled. At the west end of each aisle is a chauntry chapel, and on the south side of the chancel, two arches, formerly used for confession. At the west end of the church is an embattled tower, in which are five bells. The register bears date in 1582.

Jeremiah Stephens, who succeeded to this rectory about 1626, and who was educated in Brazen-Nose college, Oxford, was in 1642, troubled by a person, who under sanction of the Parliament committee, defrauded him of his tythes ; and in 1644, was formally sequestered from his living. The witnesses produced against him were persons of the most infamous characters, and his judges remarkable

for their ignorance. Mr. Stephens, in his defence before the Commissioners, citing a passage from Bracton, was reprehended for the affront, in using a language, which they said, they did not understand. His cause was afterwards re-heard before the Committee in London, where Mr. Seldon appeared in his behalf, and gave testimony to his learning and morals, without success. Besides the loss of his benefice, he was plundered and imprisoned ; but, outliving his sufferings, he was restored, on the return of the King, to his former preferments, and presented to a prebend in the church of Salisbury. He was author of several books.—There is a monument in this church to his memory.

John Langford, by will, bearing date the 28th of April, 1658, bequeathed to the poor of this parish 30s. yearly, for ever, and to the rector 10s. for a sermon to be preached on Tuesday in Whitsun-week.

### YARDLEY-HASTINGS

Is a village about eight miles from Northampton, situate low, upon a clay, bounded on the east by Bozeat, north by Easton-Maudit, on the west by Ashby and Denton, and on the south by Olney, in Buckinghamshire. In the Conqueror's time it was

called Gerdelai, in later records Jerdele ; and took the addition of Hastings from the family of Hastings, Earls of Pembroke, who were afterwards possessed of it. Northward of the church is the old manor-house, now in ruins ; but it appears from the remains of arches, with door-cases and window-frames of stone, to be of great antiquity. Yardley-Hastings is famous for its noble chace, which consists of one and twenty coppices, abounding with fine timber, and well stocked with deer. Three coppices are in Denton, and a small part in the parish of Castle-Ashby. The whole belongs to the Marquis of Northampton. Here is a fair on Tuesday in Whitsun-week, kept within a close adjoining to the old manor-house.

In the 20th year of Henry VIII, died Sir William Compton, Knight, possessed of this manor, park, and chace, and advowson of the church, with forty messuages, forty tofts, one thousand acres of arable land, one thousand acres of meadow, one thousand acres of pasture, and two thousand acres of wood. His successor was Peter Compton, Esq. his son, a minor six years old, from this Gentleman they descended to James, Earl of Northampton, his lineal heir, and from him to the present possessor of the manor.

Ralph de Jerdele, an hermit, had a yearly allowance of three quarters of wheat out of this manor ; which, on the death of Henry de Hastings, in the thirty fourth of Henry III, was paid during the minority of his heir, out of the manor of Allesley, in Warwickshire.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a body, north and south aisles, and chancel, leaded ; the south aisle is embattled ; and at the west end is a tower, containing six bells. The lower part of the north aisle is separated from the rest of the church, and made use of as a school-house. The register begins in 1558. The church has been lately repaired and new pewed, and a small organ given by the Rev. Mr. Rooke.

In 1665, from the fifth of June to the third of January following inclusive, sixty persons died of the plague in this village.

About three miles from Yardley stands Yardley Oak, supposed to be more than 700 years old ; 22 feet,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in circumference, the property of the Marquis of Northampton.

In a description of this oak, given by the celebrated poet, W. Cowper, Esq. of Weston-Underwood, are the following beautiful Lines :—

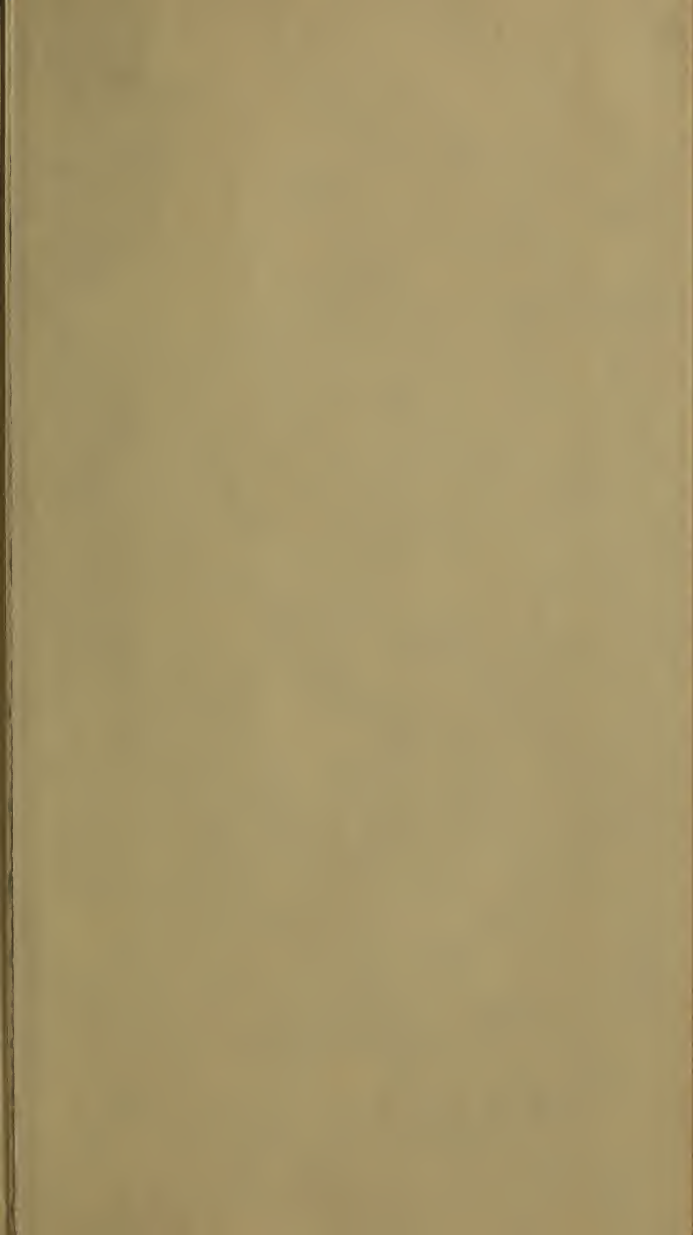
Time made thee what thou wert—King of the woods !  
And time hath made thee what thou art—a cave  
For owls to roost in! Once thy spreading boughs  
O'erhung the champaign, and the numerous flock  
That graz'd it, stood beneath that ample cope  
Uncrouded, yet safe sheltered from the storm.  
Time was, when sett'ling on thy leaf, a fly  
Could shake thee to the root, and time has been  
When tempests could not. At thy firmest age  
Thou hadst within thy bole solid contents,  
That might have ribb'd the sides and plank'd the deck  
Of some flagg'd admiral, and tortuous arms,  
The shipwright's darling treasure, didst present  
To the four quarter'd winds robust and bold,  
Warp'd into tough knee timber, many a load !

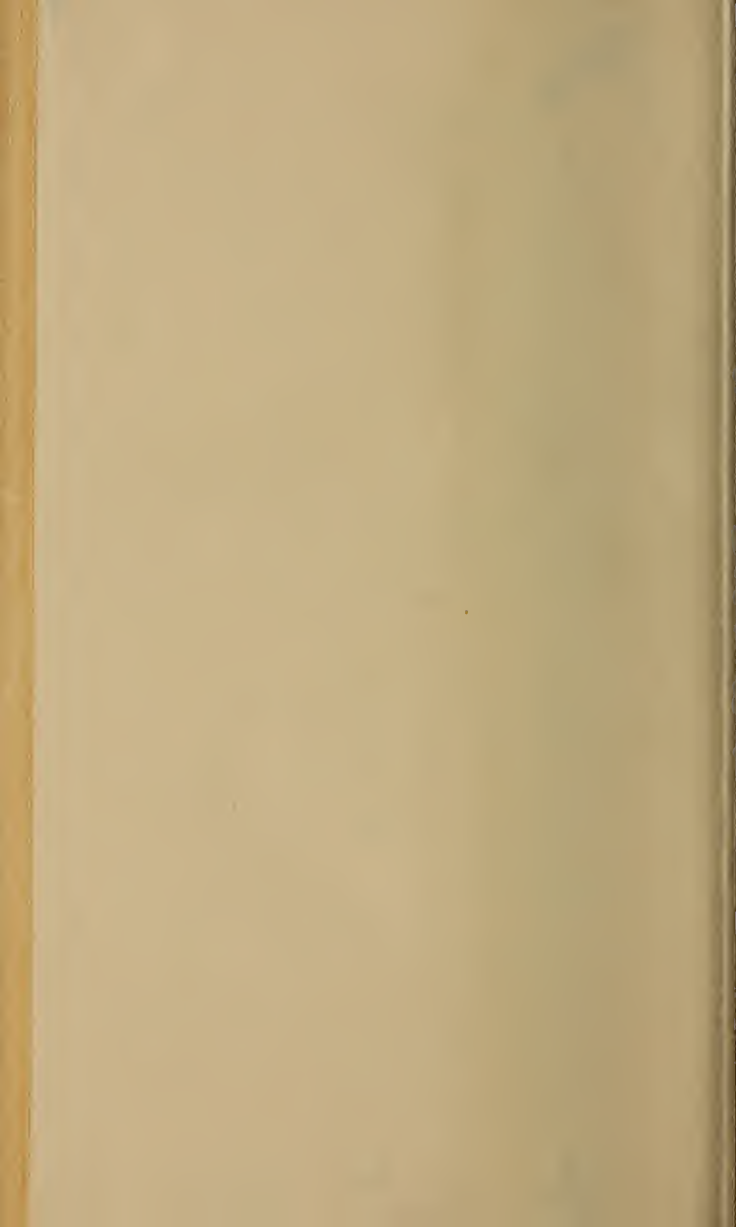
Thus to time

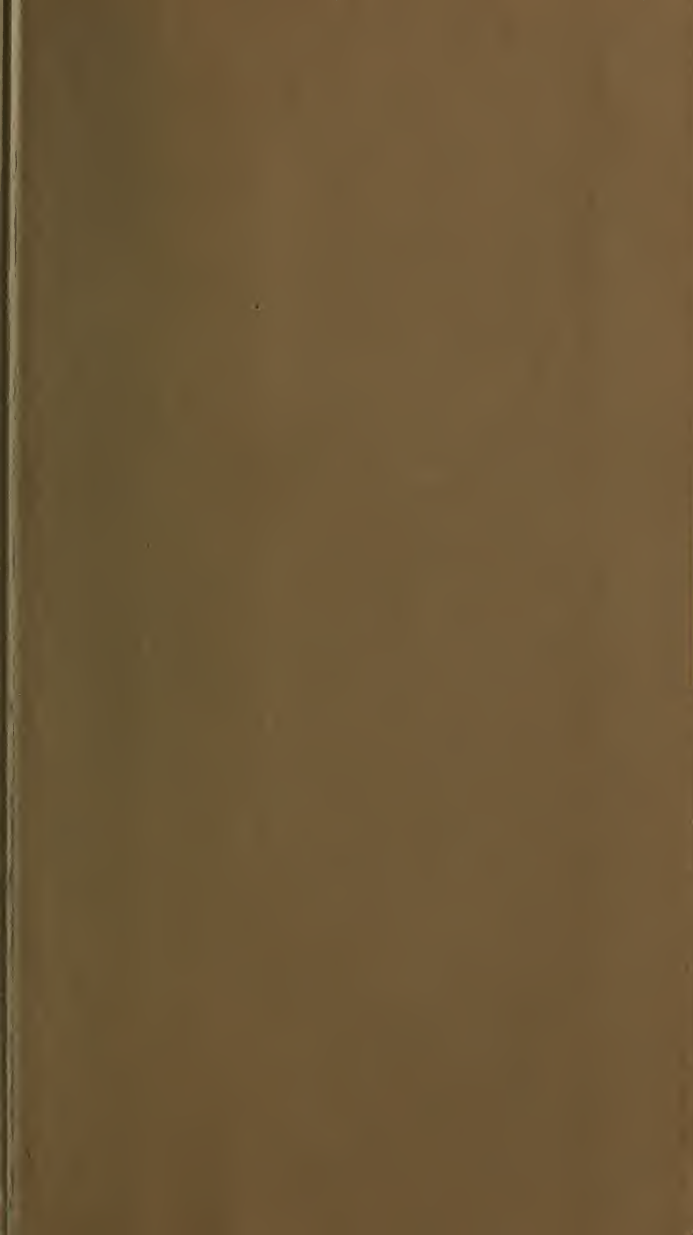
The task was left to whittle thee away,  
With his sly scythe, whose ever-nibbling edge,  
Noiseless, an atom and an atom more,  
Disjoining from the rest, has, unobserv'd,  
Achiev'd a labour, which had far and wide  
(By man perform'd) made all the forest ring.  
Embowell'd now, and of thy ancient self  
Possessing nought, but the scooped rind, that seems  
An huge throat, calling to the clouds for drink,  
Which it would give in rivulets to thy root.

W. H. H.

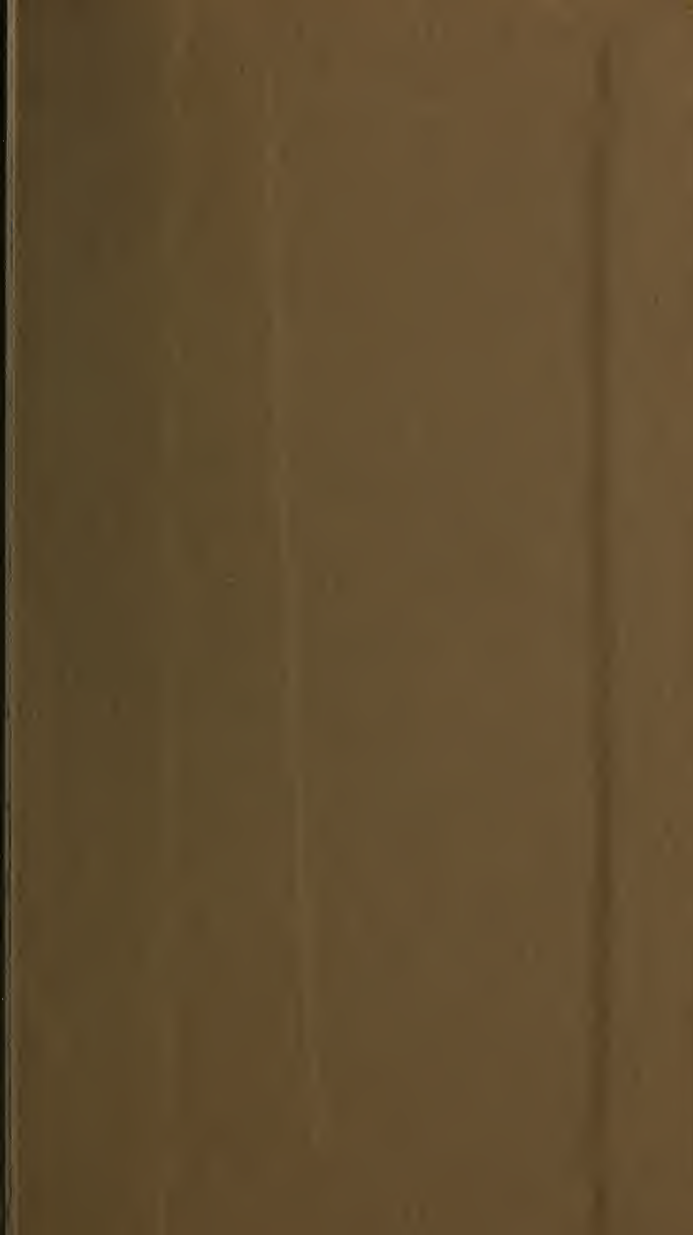
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